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GDR COMMITTEE PREVIEWS STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

LD121858 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1624 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Berlin, 12 Jan (ADN) -- The GDR Committee for European Security and Cooperation expects that the conference on security and confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe, which begins in Stockholm 17 January, will make a contribution to the reduction of tension on the continent. At a meeting in Berlin on Thursday, the members of the committee stressed that through open dialogue and trustful cooperation with various social forces, they want to contribute to the creation of a coalition of reason and good will to reduce the danger of a military confrontation and to provide for steps toward disarmament in Europe.

In a letter to its European companion organizations the committee writes that now more than ever it is important to oppose the destructive program of wrecking the military-strategic balance and striving for imperialist dominance of the world with the constructive program of security and cooperation in Europe. The GDR committee will do all in its power to achieve these aims.

PAP URGES CHEMICAL WEAPONS TALKS IN STOCKHOLM

LD122136 Warsaw PAP in English 2005 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Warsaw 12 Jan -- A week before the Stockholm conference on confidence-building measures and disarmament in Europe [words indistinct] states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty launched a new proposal aimed to increase security on the European Continent. They proposed to hold a meeting, still this year, of their representatives plenipotentiaries aimed at an [word indistinct] as it was described -- exchange of views on freeing Europe from chemical weapons.

The aim of such a meeting would be to prepare an agreement providing for, first, limitations and next reductions and elimination of chemical weapons in Europe.

It is not, in spite of first biased commentaries by some Western agencies, a secondary proposal. It is also hard to agree with opinions which charge proposals by states-parties to the Warsaw Treaty with a sketchy character and lack of concrete details.

First, the appeal addressed to NATO countries for an exchange of views on freeing Europe from chemical weapons can by no means be a detailed list of proposals and moves at once, which the hasty critics of a new initiative by socialist countries know very well.

[Words indistinct], a thorough examination of the document presented by the USSR's foreign ministry on January 10 proves that it already contains many quite detailed explanations. They [word indistinct], example, to switching over from regional moves to a world convention on a ban on chemical weapons. They also refer to the character of areas free from chemical weapons and a definite form of a possible agreements with political character.

The most vital thing, however, is to declare the will of continuing the debate over our continent's and the entire world's most topical security issues, irrespective of difficulties in East-West relations.

The significance and importance of this initiative consists in the very fact that its putting forward was timed with a period of an evident increase in tension in international arena, brought about, among other things, by the starting of the deployment of new U.S. medium-range missiles in West European countries.

The proposals meant to save the world from chemical weapons annihiation confirm a consistent drive for curbing the quantitative and qualitative arms race.

The recent history proves that the West has many a time turned a blind eye to many Warsaw Treaty's initiatives having pulled all its efforts to diminish the rank and importance of those initiatives by propaganda means.

One should hope that this time, on the threshold of the Stockholm conference, the approach will be different.

SFRY'S STANCE ON STOCKHOLM TALKS OUTLINED

Foreign Secretariat Spokesman

LD121455 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1348 GMT 12 Jan 84

["pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, January 12 (TANJUG) -- Yugoslavia expects a substantive political dialogue on the aspects of military security in Europe to be initiated at the Stockholm conference on confidence-building, security and disarmament in Europe, said Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat spokesman Zeljko Jeglic today, Thursday.

Speaking at a press conference here, the spokesman said such a dialogue would be conducive to surmounting the present confrontation and distrust.

The Yugoslav Government hopes that the work and results of the Stockholm gathering will constitute a reaffirmation of the non-bloc, all-European approach to security issues based on the principle of full respect for the equality and security of all participant countries.

The Yugoslav Government hopes that the conference in Stockholm will adopt concrete and far-reaching measures the practical implementation of which would substantially contribute to the [words indistinct] said Ambassador Jeglic.

Yugoslavia expects in particular that the neutral and nonaligned countries will play a notable role in Stockholm as they did in the former stages of the European security and cooperation process.

"The nonaligned and neutral countries have been, and we consider that they should also be in Stockholm, not only the representatives of their specific interests, but also the champions of the initiatives for European solutions in general. We consider that they will make joint effort for the conference to adopt measures which would represent a significant progress with respect to those foreseen by the Final Act of the 1975 Helsinki declaration," Ambassador Jeglic concluded.

Mojsov To Attend Opening

LD121811 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1834 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 12 (TANJUG) -- Together with the neutral and nonaligned countries and in cooperation with the other governments participating in the forthcoming Stockholm conference, Yugoslavia will endeavour for as comprehensive cooperation as possible, for limiting the military activities, and for the consolidation of mutual confidence.

This is pointed out in Yugoslavia's platform for the first stage Conference on Security and Disarmament in Europe, which opens in the Swedish capital city January 17. The platform was adopted by the Yugoslav Government today, Thursday.

The Yugoslav Government regards it as an important fact that the conference will begin at the foreign minister level. Also present at the opening of the Stockholm conference will be Yugoslav Foreign Secretary Lazar Mojsov.

The Yugoslav Government today also adopted a platform for the participation of a Yugoslav delegation in the forthcoming conference of nonaligned countries information ministers in Indonesia towards the end of this month. The Yugoslov delegation will be headed by Federal Secretary for Information Mitko Calovski.

ANTONOV'S WIFE DENIES ITALIAN REPORT ON DIVORCE

AU121622 Sofia BTA in English 1521 GMT 12 Jan 84

["Rositsa Antonova: This Is a Link of the Slander!" -- BTA headline]

[Excerpts] Sofia, Jan 12 (BTA) -- The second programme of the Italian Television (RAI) alleged yesterday that Rositsa, the wife of the Bulgarian Sergey Antonov detained in Rome, has applied for and obtained a divorce. This report was accompanied by a respective commentary by the special envoy Guiseppe Marazzo.

Informed about this report, Rositsa Antonova told a BTA representative: How is it possible to spread such lies and slanders concerning my family? My husband Sergey Antonov and I have normal relations as a husband and wife. I will not give any comments concerning the sayings of Guiseppe Marazzo, the Italian television envoy in question. I can only state that he has neither heard this from me nor it is ever true.

By the way, I am shocked at such an unclean interference in my family relations. But there is no more room for surprise now, bearing in mind that this is but a link of the overall slander against my husband of an alleged participation in the assassination attempt on Pope John Paul the Second.

WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL ON CHEMICAL WEAPONS CITED

LD121133 Prague CTK in English 1049 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Prague [no date as received] -- The Warsaw Treaty countries' proposal for removing chemical weapons from Europe is advantageous for all European countries, and its adoption would not threaten the security of any member of both NATO and the Warsaw Treaty, today's RUDE PRAVO said.

The paper pointed out that the USA continuously blocks all attempts to reach an agreement, and has started the production of extremely dangerous binary gases. RUDE PRAVO said that in 1980 the USA broke off the talks with the Soviet Union about the liquidation of chemical weapons, in 1982 only the Americans voted in the UN against the appeal for a ban and liquidation of chemical weapons, and this year the Congress approved President Reagan's request for additional 13 million dollars [figure as received] for the development and production of chemical weapons.

RUDE PRAVO stressed that the Warsaw Treaty proposal for direct negotiations with the NATO countries regards also the fact that that some Western delegations while discussing the liquidation of chemical weapons in the Geneva disarmament committee go into excessive technical details, and come up with new and new conditions [as received] especially in the sphere of control. The Warsaw Treaty countries do not avoid a justified control, but also do not want to be dragged into endless disputes about unsubstantial issues.

The interest of all European nations is identical -- to get rid of the threat of chemical weapons, to create conditions for the total liquidation not only in Europe, but in the whole world. The NATO countries' response will show whether their words about the will to discuss concrete disarmament steps seriously were true, RUDE PRAVO concluded.

CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONDEMN NUCLEAR WEAPONS

LD121753 Vatican City International Service in English 1445 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Roman Catholic bishops in eastern Czechoslovakia have condemned the production, deployment and use of nuclear weapons in a pastoral letter. We declare unanimously that the production, deployment, as well as the use, of nuclear weapons is a crime against humanity and must be condemned, said the bishops. Their letter was published in the New Year's issue of KATOLICKE NOVINY, the Slovak Catholic weekly. The bishops did not name either superpower, in contrast to a message in the same magazine by Pacem in Terris, the state-supervised clerical organization, which blamed American militarism for the arms race. Czechoslovakia, a close Soviet ally, regularly condemns U.S. arms policies. The Slovak bishops called for mutual reconciliation and brotherhood, warning that modern technology in the hands of irresponsible people could destroy mankind. Pacem in Terris, in seeming approval of the planned stationing of new Soviet nuclear missiles in Czechoslovakia, said it is necessary not only to defend the interests of peace but do all possible for the protection of our homeland.

STROUGAL, SFRY'S PAVLOVIC HOLD COOPERATION TALKS

LD122201 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1730 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Federal Premier Lubomir Strougal today in the Hrzan Palace in Prague received Rade Pavlovic, member of the SFRY Federal Executive Council, who is head of the SFRY delegation to the 18th session of the Czechoslovak-Yugoslav Committee for Economic and Scientific-Technical Cooperation.

Lubomir Strougal and Rade Pavlovich exchanged information about achievements in the development of the national economy of the two countries and about the main tasks in the coming period. They praised the development of all-round cooperation between Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia and expressed interest in its dynamic expansion. The two representatives said that especially a deepening of production cooperation and specialization and more extensive long-term cooperation on third markets should make the greatest contribution to this aim. In this connection, they also mapped out some concrete directions of economic cooperation for this and the next few years.

DELEGATION IN VIENNA FOR AUSTRIAN CP CONGRESS

LD121751 Prague Domestic Service in Czech and Slovak 1600 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] A CPCZ delegation arrived in Vienna today for the 25th Congress of the Communist Party of Austria. Our delegation is led by Karel Hoffmann, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and chairman of the Central Council of Trade Unions.

During their stay in Vienna the members of our delegation will discuss with Austrian comrades some concrete issues of further cooperation between the two fraternal parties.

LENART INTERVIEWED ON MISSILE DEPLOYMENTS

AU121424 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 11 Jan 84 p 3

[Interview given by Jozef Lenart, member of the CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and first secretary of the CPSL Central Committee, to Buhus Travnicek, Bratislava PRAVDA editor in chief, Zoltan Rabay, UJ SZO editor in chief, and Leopold Podstupka, NOVE SLOVO editor in chief: "Economy, Search for Quality and Efficiency -- the Decisive Front of the Struggle for Peace" -- date and place of interview not given; journalists asking individual questions not specified]

[Excerpt] [Question] The Ninth CPCZ Central Committee Session devoted great attention to the international situation. What does this entail for the work of party organizations and communists?

[Lenart] Yes, the CPCZ Central Committee devoted extraordinary attention to international problems, and it did, and does, so rightly. After all, we all feel that -- as a result of the implementation of NATO's so-called "counterarmament" plans -- the international situation has never since World War II been as critical as it is today.

That is also why our tasks in the international, economic, and ideological fields, and also in the sphere of mass political work, are unusually demanding.

As you know, the CPCZ Central Committee unequivocally endorsed our government's agreement with the USSR Council of Ministers to deploy missile complexes on CSSR territory. And in the interest of our country's security and sovereignty, it decided to further reinforce our defensive strength.

In implementing this line, great responsibility rests with party organizations and all communists. It is within their reach and, to a decisive degree, up to them to make the struggle for the security of our homeland and its peaceful development a concern of the broadest strata of the working people, their organizations, and the entire public.

As in the struggle against exploiters, the vanguard role of communists today, too, consists of raising the standard of thinking and the activity of the working people to the level of present requirements, of making everyone a conscious fighter for peace.

The times are uneasy and complicated, the risk and threat of a nuclear war are growing, through the imperialists' fault. However, we communists will yield neither to cheap optimism nor to pessimism and resignation to one's "fate." On the contrary, this very dangerous situation must rouse us, mobilize our forces, and multiply our efforts in the struggle for peace. We base our struggle and our faith that war can be prevented on the strength of socialism and its powerful economic and defensive potential, and rely on the will and determination of other progressive forces and of all people of good will on our planet. It is precisely with this awareness and with an energetic approach that we must wisely, on the basis of arguments, and persuasively develop political work among the people and explain the situation to them, so as to make it possible for them to orient themselves correctly, to make them share our conviction, and to make all of us assist in strengthening Czecholsovakia's contribution to the fateful struggle for peace.

[Question] What should be in the foreground of this endeavor of party bodies and organizations?

[Lenart] It is self-evident that we cannot count on any automatic or spontaneous influence. With the effective aid of superior party bodies, members meetings must conscientiously and in a qualified manner equip communists for enlisting public support for the implementation of our joint program and measures. We have every reason to act persuasively, because the adopted decisions express the fundamental vital interests of our people and are backed by their historical experience.

The key question is undoubtedly to substantiate the measures taken by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries in response to the deployment of American missiles in Western Europe. It is important that everyone come to understand that, by taking these measures, we are preventing the military-strategic balance -- an important guarantee of peace -- from being upset, protecting our countries against aggression, and erecting obstacles to the unleashing of war.

We, in the CSSR, also consider the fact that the American missiles are being deployed in the vicinity of our borders, a fact to which we cannot remain indifferent. In the thirties, we learned a bitter lesson about the consequences of the amassing of weapons on our western neighbor's territory. We also learned where concessions to an aggressor lead. Not peace, but the loss of our independence and the bloodiest war ever were the toll exacted by the Munich betrayal, by capitulation before the aggressor.

Nor do we forget the fifties when U.S. reactionary forces were planning to unleash an all-out nuclear war agianst the USSR. It was the unity and political cohesion of the Soviet people, the unity of the countries of socialism, and their economic and scientific-technical potential that made it possible to form the nuclear shield of the USSR and thus to thwart the aggressor's criminal designs.

And we are convinced that also today, by means of energetic deeds of our countries, we can erect effective obstacles to the unleashing of "limited" or "all-out" nuclear wars.

[Question] The need for effective mass political work is also underlined by the fact that, in spite of the apparent simplicity of the issue of the struggle for peace, there are quite a number of unclear points.

[Lenart] Yes, you are right. We are realists and know that some people view the problems of war and peace in simplified terms and, many a time, even incorrectly. Let us take, for example, the question of the sources of the present tension. Being under the influence of petit bourgeois propaganda, some people interpret the problem as that of two superpowers waging a struggle for supremacy in which neither side is willing to budge. This is, of course, an incorrect and erroneous interpretation. The gist of the matter is that war and peace have their socioeconomic roots, and that the approach to dealing with these roots has class foundations. Even today's threat is the outcome of the policy of the most reactionary imperialist forces. Its causes lie in the aggressiveness of these forces, in the selfish pursuit by the magnates of the military-industrial complex of stupendous profits, and in their endeavor to dominate the world, in the interest of these profits.

Juxtaposed to this is the truth, proved not only in theory but demonstrated by real life, that socialism and peace are two sides of one coin, that socialism and peace are inseparable. After all, the meaning and purpose of socialism are the well-being and happiness of people, and impoverishment and destruction are alien to it. It has to turn to its armed forces only in defending its socialist sovereignty against the enemy. Convincing new evidence of this fact is furnished by the solemn pronouncement of the USSR Supreme Soviet, addressed to the parliaments and nations of all countries of the world, that "the USSR does not threaten the security of any country, be it in the West or in the East. It wishes to live in peace with all countries and to implement the principle of peaceful coexistence of states with different social and political systems."

This pronouncement only underlines the truth that socialism does not need war even to achieve victory in the historical contest with capitalism. Nor do we need for this the export of revolution, as the ideologues of imperialism would like to insinuate. Revolution simply cannot be exported. It arises from the objective needs of the social development of every country, from the development of its social and political forces. That is also why we are doing everything we can for the historical contest between the two social systems to take place under conditions of military confrontation.

[Question] Sentiments that the dangerous development incited by the American aggressors cannot be halted may become manifest. What do you think about this?

[Lenart] We do not subscribe to this view. As I have already stressed, we, communists, share the conviction that the aggressor can be halted, that it is possible to curb him.

We proceed in this, above all, from the fact that the imperialists will not succeed in changing the actual correlation of forces. This is guaranteed by the countermeasures of the USSR and other countries of socialism, provoked by the dangerous course of the United States and its NATO allies. Furthermore, we proceed from the fact that the militaristic course, called forth by the economic crisis, further deepens this crisis and entails new and additional problems and difficulties for the United States. The contradictions and contending interests between the United States and Western Europe, between the United States and Japan and the rest of the world, in the economic field and in science and technology are deepening. We also take into account the fact that distrust in U.S. policies is growing, especially in Europe, and that also in the countries of the third world there is growing anxiety about the general threat.

Communists and all committed citizens and patriots can thus rely on a number of objective facts in speaking out in a persuasive and well-informed way against demobilizing moods.

However, what matters is that this recognition inspires people, that it be reflected in their active stands in work and in public life. We must do everything we can so that every citizen can assume his place in the strengthening front of the fighters for peace. Everyone matters. It is not by chance that a proverb says that a river is made up of drops and an ocean of rivers. What matters is that the strength of the defenders of peace be multiplied in the unified arrays of millions of people. And we are convinced that where this strength strains its every nerve, there -- as Klement Gottwald used to say -- the world will be set in motion!

[Question] It is apparent that, in working among the people, we must more resolutely expose the mendacious imperialist propaganda.

[Lenart] You are right to draw attention to this because here, too, we must proceed more vigorously. Imperialist propaganda is doing everything it can to relieve the United States of the responsibility for thwarting the talks on nuclear weapons, to blunt the criticism of U.S. policy, and to confuse the broad public by means of demagogy about willingness to resume talks.

Those in the world who are not informed may well swallow the bait of such "propaganda." However, our highly-principled and firm stand makes it possible for the world to realize the pernicious consequences of NATO's policy and the responsibility of those leaders who opted for the path of active support for the American soldiery and, acting against the will of the nations, are turning the territories of their countries into launching pads for American missiles and making their nations hostage to the adventurous policy of the United States.

These gentlemen are concealing the consequences of their militaristic policy from the West European public by claiming that "nothing has, in fact, happened," but among the citizens of the socialist countries, they would like to trigger doubts about the justification of our countermeasures. They would like to arouse resistance to them and to belittle the fulfillment of our patriotic measures in defense of sovereignty as well as our internationalist obligations in the Warsaw Pact. With the aim of weakening our defense capability and our political system in general, the bourgeois reaction has intensified its dirty propaganda to manipulate especially our youth into antisocialist positions and to infect it with the ideas of Masaryk-ism, the "American" roots of which it so conspicuously stresses.

All the greater attention do we have to devote to the education of our citizens and the youth in particular toward socialist patriotism and internationalism, toward concious builders and defenders of the socialist homeland.

[Question] The categorical order of the day clearly follows from everything you have said -- to step up our struggle against war and for peace.

[Lenart] Yes, this is now the main and crucial thing. Nuclear war today poses a threat to all nations, it jeopardizes both capitalist and socialist states, it threatens alike those who fight and those who do not.

The whole world is endangered because the American imperialists have imposed on it a new burden of armament and shifted the world to the brink of a war catastrophe.

Mankind has gone through many wars that have inflicted on it immense hardships and vast material and cultural damage. Scientists and reasonable politicians arrive unequivocally at the conclusion that, should a nuclear war break out, it would be the end of the human race and its civilization. That is why the struggle to rid the world of this danger is of epochal and universal significance.

"An end to wars, peace among nations, an end to robbery and brute force -- that is our ideal," V.I. Lenin used to stress. And, let us add, today it is the most acute and urgent task.

That is also why now, when the conference on European security in Stockholm is drawing closer, it is exceedingly important that we support its successful course by mass meetings and rallies. Our public, too, will add its voice to the demand that resounds throughout Europe -- to halt the deployment of American missiles, withdraw missiles that have already been installed, and then resume negotiations!

[Question] At its ninth session, the Central Committee especially emphasized the connection between tasks in the economy on the one hand, and the international situation and the country's defense on the other.

[Lenart] Yes, the Central Committee did so rightly and with good reason. After all, the economy was, and still is, the decisive battlefield of the struggle for peace. We know that the more powerful our economic potential is, the more solid is our defense capability and the position of the country in the world.

We must see the very tangible link between our economy and the international situation. It is obvious that we must deal with the problem of defense in economic terms also, that we can not avoid increased expenditures on defense. However, we want to, and must, economically safeguard our defense capability by further developing the economy, especially by raising the level of efficiency, by more efficiently using all resources at our disposal. What matters is that we manage this while maintaining the current standard of living, the quality of which we will continue to improve, in the spirit of the congress line.

I would like to stress that if, heretofore, we have been explaining the general line of the economy's intensification with the laws governing the building of an advanced socialist society and with the increasingly demanding and qualitatively new needs of our people, the present international situation accentuates the correctness of this explanation even more.

The words of Comrade Andropov's statement at the recent session of the CPSU Central Committee are relevant for us also in that in the present international situation "the consistent fulfillment of the state plan becomes not only the commitment but also the patriotic duty of every Soviet citizen, every work collective, and every party and social organization."

APPLICATIONS TO PROVIDE PRIVATE SERVICES NOTED

AU121530 Prague VECERNI PRAHA in Czech 10 Jan 84 p 2

[V. Dolejsova commentary in the "We Comment" column: "Private Entrepreneurs"]

[Text] On the basis of government regulation No 154/82, the Prague National Committees have started to issue permits for private service activities, but the overwhelming majority of permits are issued only to those artisans whose professional services cannot be provided by either the local economy enterprise or a cooperative, or in cases where the occupation in question is not listed among the activities of enterprises at all. The selection of applicants -- they consist of pensioners, housewives, or people interested in working in a second, duly registered job -- is made by the sectors of trade and services and of the local economy.

For instance, by the end of last year the National Committee in Prague's 10th district had issued a total of 72 permits, they primarily concerned glaziers, plumbers, and electricians, but also included a bookbinder, an upholsterer, and a bricklayer. In the list for Prague's 8th district we also find a stonemason, but a female hairdresser's field of activities is restricted solely to the old people's home, and the activity of a cosmetic specialist to the musical theater in Karlin. However, a cabinetmaker may work in the entire district. The National Committee of Prague's 2d district approaches the issuing of permits very strictly; the applicants who are still employed are required to produce their employer's permission, and every applicant is required to produce an extract from the police records. It is gratifying that the National Committees do not limit themselves to merely issuing permits, but also devote their attention to advertising. The lists of private artisans are published in bulletins; in the Pankrac District the lists are even displayed in individual houses, and lists have also been distributed among deputies and civic committees.

On the whole, the National Committees are unanimously in favor of ignoring applications for permits to engage in the domestic production of fairground articles, but they all clamor for shoemakers, who appear to have vanished completely, and, on the town's outskirts, for construction professionals. They also agree that although private artisans can help, they still cannot resolve the serious problem of the accessibility and further improvement of services, since this responsibility continues to lie on the shoulders of national enterprises and cooperatives, and depends on their development, coordination, and on stricter state discipline. The committees also mention the absence of citizens' complaints about the work or unwillingness of private artisans; they also mention that they are aware of the problems connected with acquiring the necessary materials. However, they are not yet considering the problem noted by a certain artisan: "If somebody, let us say, from Bratislava brings a key to me in my workshop, there is nothing to prevent me from making a duplicate, or even from making it while he waits. But if I am asked to open an apratment for a desperate person, and this apartment is in a house immediately beyong the imaginary border of the district, I may not do so, even if I know it is almost impossible to get help there."

EDITORIAL EXAMINES PRESENT STAGE OF SOCIALISM

AU121252 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 11 Jan 84 p 1

[Editorial: "The Cause of Peace and Progress" -- capitalized words published in boldface

[Text] As the integrating component of the revolutionary Marxist-Leninist world outlook and the fundamental principle of the ideology of the proletariat, proletarian internationalism is simultaneously an instruction for practical activity which is aimed at a revolutionary humanist transformation of the world. To be an internationalist has always meant not only to profess proletarian ideology, but above all to act according to its intentions.

SOCIALIST internationalism is connected with the achievements of the power of the workers class, with the realization of proletarian revolutions, and with the emergence of the socialist community. The all-round mutual cooperation of socialist countries, their mutual assistance in protecting the achievements of socialism, the endeavor to maintain peace and to establish conditions for the peaceful and uninterrupted building of a socially just order -- this is the way we could characterize the most important principles and goals of socialist internationalism.

It is thus not a matter of principles, on the basis of which socialist internationalism harbors literally destructive intentions toward the so-called "free world," as our class enemies attempt to persuade the people, intentions aimed at foisting a socialist social order on this world at any price. Socialist internationalism represents a realistic and unbreakable force that is capable of efficiently warding off the attempts to destroy socialism, a force that is prepared to lend assistance to the revolutionary movements of the peoples fighting for their social and human liberation.

The cooperation of the countries of the socialist community, as the expression of the unity of class interests, was and remains a thorn in the side of various falsifiers and disinterpreters. Particularly during the last few years, the theory of some kind of "crisis," of some kind of political and economic "disintegration" of the countries of the socialist community, has literally become a hit and a popular slogan for the bourgeois ideologists. The aim of this theory is to break the international unity of the socialist countries, to divert the attention of the broad masses in their own countries from the fight against the growing arbitrariness of monopolies, and to disintegrate and disorient the progressive components of the contemporary revolutionary process.

These attempts are neither original nor new in any respect. However, the danger lies in their being officially incited and nourished by the most reactionary circles of imperialism; in their becoming part of official state policy; and in their fulfilling the function of ideological justification of the frontal offensive in the attempt to liquidate socialism as a social system, as was publicly stated by U.S. President Reagan. The vehemently propagated false thesis on the "crisis" of socialism has, allegedly, created objective conditions for the disintegration of this system.

It is no secret that the targets of the concentrated ideological attack are exactly the relations between individual socialist countries. Theories about the "disintegration" of socialism have always appeared whenever the socialist society has been culminating a particular phase and entering a NEW AND HIGHER phase. At the same time the communists do not claim that the development of a new social order is proceeding without any conflicts. "Today the term 'socialism' cannot be understood other than in connection with the immensely rich practical experience of the peoples of the Soviet Union and of other fraternal countries," Yuriy Andropov wrote in his article "Karl Marx's Doctrine and Certain Issues of Building Socialism in the USSR." "This experience shows how complicated many of the problems emerging on the path of socialist construction are. At the same time, however, it shows that only socialism is capable of resolving the most complicated issues in the life of society."

The present phase of the development of socialism can be called, without exaggeration, a revolutionary phase. It is connected with the rapid reconstruction of the structure of industry, with unprecedented demands being placed on the acceleration of the rate of scientific-technical advance, and with the transition of the CEMA member-countries' economies to the path of intensive national economy development. After all, as has happened time and again in history, the socialist community in particular plays a historically pioneering role also in this respect: It shows the paths and methods of resolving issues, and it formulates the only long-range alternative that is acceptable for human society AS A WHOLE.

Metaphorically speaking, if we are resolving problems that simply had never before confronted any socioeconomic formation in such a concentrated, exacting, and comprehensive form, these problems -- and this must be kept in mind -- are problems connected with the MATURING and with the GROWTH of socialism, on no account are they an expression of some kind of crisis.

It is somewhere here that we must see the causes of efforts by the bourgeois disinterpreters to denigrate the nature of the development of real socialism. It is also somewhere here that we must see the reason why they, for their part, have withdrawn from the theories and the policy which, at least for appearance's sake, proclaim economic competition, and why they are resorting to methods of direct military confrontation. This course is not, and cannot be, an expression of a renewed or "renewing" strength of imperialism, in the way Reagan's propaganda machinery claims; on the contrary, it is an expression of the predatory, anti-humane nature of imperialism, which follows from its development without prospects, from its hopelessness, and from its deep general crisis.

It is no coincidence that claims about the disintegration of the CEMA countries appeared with new intensity at the beginning of the seventies. That was when the CEMA member countries adopted the Comprehensive Program of the Further Deepening and Development of International Socialist Economic Integration. The economic cooperation of the socialist countries is based on the principles of social ownership of the means of production, on the principles of socialist internationalism and of socialist humanism -- on the principles of respect for the unity of national and international interests.

Everybody who assesses the development of mutual cooperation among the CEMA countries from objective and unprejudiced standpoints must see the continuation of the process of a progressive rapprochement of the fraternal countries' economies, that is, a process that directly contradicts the disintegration theories mentioned above. It is exactly in order to achieve a new type of social order, and a NEW kind of relations following from this order, that the common activity concept is being developed. In this context we must mention the coordination of the national 5-year plans of economic and social development, and the common planned scientific-technical and investment and production activity, including the sales of products.

A development of new forms of cooperation took place during the seventies particularly in planning activities. These forms make it possible to apply the progressive, programmatically targeted planning method much more widely than in the past. The intensification of the CEMA member-countries' economic integration during the seventies and at the beginning of the eighties has led to a deepening of the international socialist division of labor; the economic relations between these countries have taken on a more specific shape, literally on all levels.

One of the integral parts of socialist internationalism is the protection of the achievements of the socialist social system and, at present, the saving of human civilization and of all the values created by the preceding generations. The CPCZ Central Committee Presidium and the Czechoslovak Government, realizing their responsibility for the peaceful and calm life of the Czechoslovak people, for the fate of the socialist community, and for the preservation of world peace, have adopted appropriate measures which, together with the measures of the Soviet Union, establish a counterbalance to the adventurous intentions of the imperialist circles with an adventurous way of thinking.

We are striving for peace; we need peace; but, to quote Lenin's words, we will not permit anyone to strangle us in the name of peace. As Vasil Bilak stated at the Ninth CPCZ Central Committee session: "the guarantee of the security of the socialist community as a whole, as well as of the security of individual countries, does not lie in the quantity and quality of arms alone; it also lies in the strength of the economies, in their unity, an in their social commitment, which is based on high political-ideological steadfastness."

Nobody will succeed in destroying the socialist system nor in causing its unity to disintegrate through economic, political, or some other pressure. Socialism has achieved outstanding successes in economics, in culture, in the development of equality and comradeship of the peoples, and in the establishment of corresponding conditions for the development of personality. It ensures both the participation of broad people's masses in the administration and management of the country, and the constant development of socialist democracy.

One of the most significant achievements of socialism is the shaping of a new kind of international relations, founded on voluntary, mutually advantageous cooperation based on equal rights -- relations founded on international solidarity and mutual assistance of sovereign socialist states. The Political Declaration of the Warsaw Pact member-countries that was adopted at the session of the Political Consultative Committee in January 1983 in Prague emphasizes that the participants in the conference expressed the will of their Communist Parties and their peoples. They confirmed the resolve to consolidate the unity of the socialist countries more than ever, to develop and deepen their political, economic, and cultural cooperation, and to unite their efforts in the battle for peace and progress.

ATTEMPTED BOMBING OF PRAGUE STORE REPORTED

AU121040 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 12 Jan 84 p 10

[Text] CSSR -- It has just been learned that a bomb attack against the Prague "Kotva" department store was attempted on 20 December. A sales assistant noticed the suspicious package containing explosives and a time fuse, and the bomb was defused in time. This is the first report of a bomb attempt in the CSSR since 1945.

BRIEFS

BEER PRODUCTION, EXPORTS -- Some 25 million hectoliters of beer are being produced in the CSSR annually, of which less than 10 percent is exported. The main customers are Hungary and the Soviet Union among socialist countries, and the FRG, Italy and Austria among nonsocialist countries. [Summary] [Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 6 Jan 84 p 2 AU]

ELECTRONICS PRICES REDUCED -- The wholesale prices of electronics components, semiconductor elements, and integrated microelectronics circuits are being reduced as of 1 January 1984. On average, the new wholesale prices amount to 33 percent of the 1982 prices. Following up on this price adjustment, the retail prices of electronics components will also be reduced proportionately. [Summary] [Prague RUDE PRAVDO in Czech 7 Jan 84 p 2 AU]

CZECH BANK DEPOSITS -- According to Frantisek Pazdera, general director of the Czech State Savings Bank, in 1983 the savings of citizens of the Czech Socialist Republic registered the greatest increase since 1974. Bank deposits increased by more than Kcs5.5 billion and reached the record sum of Kcs128.84 billion. [Summary] [Prague PRACE in Czech 5 Jan 84 p 4 AU]

HONECKER RECEIVES DIPLOMATIC MISSION HEADS

LD121325 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1212 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Berlin, 12 Jan (ADN) -- Erich Honecker, general secretary of the SED Central Committee and chairman of the GDR State Council, received the heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the GDR at the State Council building in Marx Engels Square, Berlin, on Thursday, and was presented with their good wishes for the New Year.

The heads of the missions conveyed their most cordial good wishes to Erich Honecker for 1984. The dean of the diplomatic corps, the extraordinary and plenipotentiary ambassador of Socialist Ethiopia, Berhanu Jember, spoke on their behalf. He congratulated GDR workers on the successes they have achieved. The GDR's constructive peace policy is accorded appropriate respect throughout the world.

In his reply, Erich Honecker thanked the heads of diplomatic missions for their good wishes to the GDR people and their representatives. The GDR feels committed to a policy whose supreme goal is to try every feasible means of reducing military confrontation and developing relations between states in a predictable, peaceful, mutually advantageous manner.

Present at the reception for the diplomatic corps were Deputy Chairman of the State Council -- Willi Stoph, member of the SED Central Committee Polituburo and chairman of the GDR Council of Ministers; Horst Sindermann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and president of the GDR People's Chamber; Dr Manfred Gerlach, chairman of the Liberal Democratic People's Party of Germany (LDPD); Prof Dr Heinrich Homann, chairman of the National Democratic Party of Germany (NDPD); Dr Ernst Mecklenburg, chairman of the Peasants Party of Germany (DBD); State Council members -- Kurt Hager, Egon Krenz, Guenter Mittag, and Harry Tisch, members of the SED Central Committee Politburo; Margarete Mueller, candidate member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer; State Council Secretary Heinz Eichler; and other figures.

During the festive reception, Erich Honecker and other GDR representatives held friendly discussions with the heads of diplomatic missions.

New Year Address

LD121457 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1308 GMT 12 Jan 84

["Erich Honecker's New Year Address to the Diplomatic Corps" -- ADN headline]

[Text] Berlin, 12 Jan (ADN) -- In his address, Erich Honecker thanked the heads of diplomatic missions for the good wishes addressed to the people of the GDR and their representatives. He continued:

At the start of the New Year, the hopes and expections of the peoples of Europe and the whole world are directed above all to the basic question of human existence -- the preservation and safeguarding of peace. We share the deep concern of people of all continents in face of growing tensions and dangers, but we are also convinced that with reason and goodwill the dangerous trends in international relations can be overcome.

The prime requirement of a responsible foreign policy can only be to take all practical ways to reduce military confrontation and to make relations between the states predictable, peaceful and mutually useful. The GDR has always felt itself committed to such a policy, and thus it works to see that reason gains the upper hand in all problems that must be solved in the interests of mankind. A return to the situation existing before the deployment of the new U.S. weapons systems will offer the possibility of resuming negotiations on the limitation and reduction of medium-range nuclear weapons systems. Simultaneously, this will open the door to the resumption of negotiations on ending the arms race and on disarmament in the strategic field.

Nothing would be more beneficial to lasting peace than to bring about a radical reduction in the means of waging war, particularly in the nuclear field, while at the same time strictly preserving military-strategic parity. Such a balance has preserved peace in the world during the past decades. The GDR, together with its allies, cannot permit this to be destroyed.

As you know, the state of the socialist community, as determined opponents to a "balance of terror", have offered a large number of peace and disarmament proposals which are realistic because they are based on the right of everyone to an equal measure of security. These initiatives are still available. They have been augmented by the recent proposal of the Warsaw Pact states for a ban on chemical weapons in Europe as a first step toward global agreement.

We attribute particular importance to the proposal that a treaty on the renunciation of use of military force and the preservation of peaceful relations between the Warsaw Pact and NATO states be concluded. The conclusion of such a treaty would be an appropriate way to rapidly and effectively check the dangers which have arisen, promote trust between states, and bring about an improvement in the international climate. At the same time, this would greatly benefit the efforts for arms limitation and disarmament.

Let me assure you that the GDR will do everything within its power at the conference on confidence and security-building measures, which begins in Stockholm in a few days' time, to create more trust and to help reduce military confrontation on our continent. The GDR will take its place at the conference table in the hope that the other participating states are guided by the same desire.

An unrestricted guarantee of the principle of equality and equal security will be the only sound basis for positive results in Stockholm. Further twists to the arms spiral, on the other hand, not only increase the danger of war but also endanger everything achieved in the 1970's with regard to peaceful and equal cooperation between the states of the two systems, especially on the European Continent. Everyone benefits from the development of this cooperation, which is linked with the Helsinki process. The threat to and the dismantling of what has been achieved brings disadvantages for all of them.

In the nuclear age, especially, there is no sensible alternative to the peaceful coexistence of states with different social systems, irrespective of their territorial size and their position. This applies not only to Europe but also to the Near East and the Middle East, to Latin America, to southern Africa, and to all conflicts and tensions wherever they may arise.

The states and peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America, to whom we are linked by relations of friendship, equal rights, and mutual respect, need a worldwise atmosphere of detente no less than those of Europe. Urgent and great tasks of economic development and of the education and health services must be mastered. The decisions of the Seventh Summit Conference of Nonaligned States and the 38th UN General Assembly have also shown how extensively our concern with the present state of the world and our opinions on the path to be followed coincide or approximate to one another.

I want to assure you, heads of missions and representatives of states and peoples of these continents, that you will always have a reliable partner in the GDR in implementing these aims. I would like to thank you, Comrade Jember, for your words of praise in tribute to the industriousness and achievements of GDR citizens in the cause of peaceful socialist development. After managing last year, despite complicated external conditions, to increase the GDR's national income by 4.4 percent and industrial production by 4.6 percent while at the same time reducing the specific consumption of energy and material by 7 percent, we have also undertaken a great deal for 1984 -- the 35th anniversary of the first workers' and peasants' state on German soil. This is indended to benefit the people.

Fraternal cooperation with the Soviet Union and the other states of the socialist community is and will remain the essential guarantee that our policy will be implemented and our security maintained. The GDR will continue in future to do its share in strengthening the community of socialist states.

Comrade Jember, ambassadors and charges d'affaires, I thank you most warmly for your active participation in the development of relations between the GDR and the states which you represent. Your remark, Comrade Jember on the great and growing responsibility of diplomats in developing equal international relations in a peaceful environment reflects the needs of our time and has our full support. The GDR is ready, as it always has been, to cooperate with all forces which support peace, understanding, and equal international cooperation.

May I ask you to convey to your heads of state, governments, and peoples my best greetings and wishes for the New Year. I wish you, dear ambassadors and charges d'affaires, comrades and friends, as well as your families, good health and success in 1984.

FISCHER ARRIVES IN SPAIN ON OFFICIAL VISIT

LD121857 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1657 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Madrid, 12 Jan (ADN) -- GDR Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer arrived in Madrid on Thursday for a 3-day official visit to Spain. He was invited by Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran Lopez, who cordially greeted Oskar Fischer at Madrid's Barajas Airport.

Meets Acting Prime Minister

LD122224 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 2026 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Madrid, 12 Jan (ADN) -- Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer, who is paying an official visit to Spain, was received in Madrid Thursday evening by Alfonso Guerra, acting prime minister of the Kingdom of Spain. Oskar Fischer stressed during their conversation that his visit is aimed at activating relations between the GDR and Spain. The time for this is ripe, he said. Relations between the two countries can be developed in all areas to mutual advantage. This is particularly valuable in the present tense situation, he said. Without desiring to blur over existing differences between states with different social systems, both countries can have a calming effect on the international climate through their good example of peaceful coexistence. The GDR sees in Spain -- which exerted efforts to successfully conclude the Madrid meeting -- a partner with similar aims, Fischer said.

Alfonso Guerra welcomed the guest from the GDR on behalf of the Spanish Government and wished him a pleasant, politically successful stay. Spain believes that Oskar Fischer's visit will help to improve relations between the two countries on the basis of which further development of cooperation is possible, Guerra said. The ice in relations between the GDR and Spain was broken long ago, and now there are possibilities for more movement. The GDR is an interesting industrial and scientific-technological partner. Moreover, it is, just like Spain, an opponent of the arms race and heightening of tension.

Spain is interested in getting to know a great deal about realities in the GDR. Alfonso Guerra said his country is prepared to cooperate on a bilateral and multilateral basis with the GDR in the cultural, economic, and political spheres, in order to help reduce tension in the world.

At a dinner afterward in the Spanish parliament, Foreign Minister Fischer was welcomed by Gregoria Peces Barba, president of the Congress of Deputies.

The Spanish parliamentarian sees the visit as a sign of efforts by both states to get to know each other better and to cooperate more closely to the advantage of both peoples and peace. Oskar Fischer said that the GDR and Spain have good opportunities to expand and to deepen bilateral cooperation in all areas. This is also the aim of his talks with the Spanish representatives.

Afterwards, Oskar Fischer was shown around the parliament building.

Spanish Reportage

For Spanish reportage on the visit of Foreign Minister Oskar Fischer to Spain, including his welcome by Spanish Foreign Minister Fernando Moran and his talks with Spanish officials, see the Spain section of the 13 January Western Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

HOFFMANN RECEIVES POLISH GENERAL STAFF CHIEF

AU121314 East Berlin NEUES DEUTSCHLAND in German 11 Jan 84 p 1

[Text] Berlin (ADN) -- Heinz Hoffmann, member of the Politburo of the SED Central Committee and national defense minister, on 10 January received Division General Jozef Uzycki, vice minister of national defense and chief of the General Staff of the Polish Army. During the meeting at the Defense Ministry, the interlocutors discussed topical problems related to the military-strategic situation. They reaffirmed their determination, in view of the frenetic confrontational and arms-driven course of the United States and of its NATO partners as well as of the deployment of U.S. first-strike weapons in Western Europe, to further deepen the comradeship-in-arms and cooperation between the two armed forces, both of which are fraternally linked with the USSR.

Army Gen Hoffmann briefed his guest about the first few results achieved in political and combat training in the 1983-84 training year and shown in the accountability reports at the delegates' conferences of the SED party branches in the National People's Army [NVA] formations to date.

Division Gen Uzycki reported about the efforts of the Polish Army members to fulfill their patriotic and internationalist duty for securing peace and socialist attainments through high fighting strength and combat readiness.

The meeting was attended by Colonel General Fritz Streletz, deputy minister of national defense and chief of the NVA's Main Staff.

DOHLUS ARRIVES IN VIENNA FOR AUSTRIAN CP CONGRESS

LD122021 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1751 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Vienna, 12 Jan (ADN) -- An SED Central Committee delegation arrived in Vienna on Thursday to attend the 25th Austrian Communist Party Congress. It is led by Horst Dohlus, member of the Politburo and secretary of the SED Central Committee. The guests from the GDR were welcomed at the airport by Erwin Scharf, member of the Political Bureau and secretary of the Austrian Communist Party Central Committee.

The 25th Austrian Communist Party Congress, which begins in Vienna on Friday, will involve 3 days of discussions on the current tasks of the Austrian communists in the struggle for peace and social security.

HOFFMANN ADDRESSES ARMY UNIT CONFERENCE 6 JAN

LD061639 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1508 GMT 6 Jan 84

[Text] Berlin, 6 Jan (ADN) -- The situation that has arisen as a result of the exacerbated policy of confrontation and the deployment of U.S. first-strike weapons in Western Europe calls for the application of more exacting yardsticks to the fighting strength and combat readiness of the troops and staffs, GDR Defense Minister Army General Heinz Hoffmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo, said on Friday. The tasks of 1984 demand more of each army member than in past training years.

If the soldiers of the National People's Army, together with their comrades, face the new challenges with optimism and confidence in victory, then this is primarily a result of the conviction that peace can be secured because the socialist military power is able to frustrate the war plans of imperialism.

Minister Hoffmann spoke on Friday at the SED delegate conference of a unit of the GDR's land forces. In a letter to the SED Central Committee and to Erich Honecker, SED general secretary, the delegates promised to carry out conscientiously every order for protecting socialist achievements and peace.

HERRMANN TALKS TO VISITING SOCIALIST JOURNALISTS

LD121639 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1442 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Berlin, 12 Jan (ADN) -- The SED's entire political ideological work is geared to further strengthen socialism and secure peace. This was stated by Joachim Herrmann, member of the SED Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat, during talks today with the heads of delegations of journaists' unions from socialist countries. The delegations are currently holding a consultative meeting in Berlin. Now more than ever, the GDR is continuing with all its might the struggle to avert a nuclear world war and to end the arms race, he told representatives from 18 countries of Europe, Africa, Asia, and Latin America as well as the International Organization of Journalists. Herrmann assured the representatives of progressive journalists from four continents of the GDR's solidarity in their efforts for social progress.

ACZEL LEADS DELEGATION TO AUSTRIAN CP CONGRESS

LD121619 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] A Hungarian party delegation has traveled to Austria in order to participate in the 25th Congress of the Austrian Communist Party. The delegation is led by Gyorgy Aczel, member of the Central Committee Politburo and Secretariat.

HORN INTERVIEWED ON INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

LD130219 Budapest Television in Hungarian 1925 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Interview with Gyula Horn, director of the MSZMP Central Committee Department of International Relations, on "Panorama" program by reporter Gyorgy Balo]

[Text] [Presenter] How do we here in Budapest assess the issues of international tension, Soviet-U.S. relations, detente, world economic problems and cooperation among the socialist countries. Panorama's guest today is Gyula Horn, director of the MSZMP Central Committee Department of International Relations. The reporter is Gyorgy Balo.

[Balo] Many simply say that in 1983 we finally entered into a new period of cold war. [passage indistinct]

[Horn] I do not think that we entered any cold war period. I would characterize the situation by saying that the relationship between NATO and the Warsaw Pact Organization became more strained. What does cold war mean? It means that the contacts are suspended, are frozen. Well, this did not happen, those factors which were in evidence earlier, [word indistinct] continue to have an effect. There is another very significant difference between the present situation and the one, lets say, in the fifties, the cold war years. The latter was preceded by a period during which we felt the effects of World War II. The present situation, on the other hand, was preceded by a so-called blossoming period of detente. Well, two things follow from this. One of these is that the so-called material foundations of detente were created in the seventies, contacts and relations were established not only in the economic spheres but in political and other areas as well, and bilateral and multilateral agreements were signed. The other thing is that a kind of commitment to detente was born both in Hungary as well as on the other side, in the West. In other words the subjective factors too, have an influence, this is why the present period differs substantially from the situation of the fifties.

[Balo] So can we say unequivocally that according to you there is not yet a cold war, or that there is not a cold war at all now?

[Horn] In my opinion this can be stated unequivocally, although the situation has become more strained than before.

[Balo] Well, naturally, when you say that the contacts survived, or that the contacts exist, one thinks that the Soviet-American relations that -- and this is a commonplace, but it is true nevertheless -- determine the global political atmosphere, is not really characterized by saying that they exist. [sentence as heard]

[Horn] Well, I feel that Soviet-American relations have become substantially worse, and according to some they have fallen to their lowest point; there is truth in this. I would like to remark here that this relationship was worse before. I think, for example, of the autumn of 1962, when the relationship between the two countries was very tense.

[Balo] Was this the Cuban missile crisis?

[Horn] Yes, ehen the two leading powers stood close to a confrontation. The other thing which is very significant is that the contacts survived in the Soviet-American relationship, although at a lower level than they were before, and it is particularly important in the present situation that neither one nor the other side [words indistinct] neither inferiority nor superiority in the military sphere (?because this) foundation, the balance of power in the military spheres between the two leading powers, has not been modified.

[Balo] Even taking into account that the siting of American missiles in Europe has begun?

[Horn] Yes, even so, for these steps have been matched by appropriate countermeasures that maintain the balance of power.

[Balo] Now, putting aside these countermeasures, what is, in reality, the standpoint, the plan or intention of the Soviet Union regarding the Soviet-American (?talks)? Is there a possibility of knowing about these?

[Horn] I think the most important thing is that Geneva has created a new position, or at least a new situation, to a significant extent. Well, in the West it is often claimed that it was the Soviet Union who left the negotiating table. This is a fact. But they forget to add why it was necessary to leave, or that an impossible situation was created in the course of the Soviet-American talks in Geneva when the negotiations lost their meaning when the siting of American missiles began. The prevention of this siting was the primary objective of the discussions.

[Balo] Excuse me, the West argues that the missile deployment is a long process, in other words, in reality only a fraction of the missile deployment has taken place so far.

[Horn] Well, it is a fact that the deployment of Euromissiles is a 5 year program. Well, they are at the beginning of this now. What I find much more important than this however, is the next step regarding the medium-range nuclear missiles and other military issues. What we have to take into account here is that the Soviet Union had not said -- and never changed its standpoint in this respect -- that it doesn't want to talk to the Americans or about any military issue which is in the fore today. Nor had the standpoint of the Soviet Union changed regarding the need to rid Europe of all nuclear weapons -- all nuclear weapons, I would like to emphasize here. I am certain that negotiations will take place in the coming period, only they will take place under changed conditions and on changed bases. Let me remark here. Do you know that the Soviet standpoint has been defined in connection withthis in an unambigious manner in Yuriy Andropov's statement of 24 November 1983? Well, the West has not even responded to say that well, we are ready to begin talks about reinstituting the situation which existed before 22 November, the date of the beginning of the missile deployment, that we should talk about this. Well, even such a reaction has not been made to Andropov's standpoint.

[Balo] In your opinion what did Hungarian foreign policy do in 1983 -- let me define it in this way -- so that this country should feel as little as possible the disadvantages of this bad international situation?

[Horn] I think that the dear TV audience, too, could see and witness that the activity Hungarian foreign policy carried out in 1983 to safeguard the achievements of detente -- and this gained expression unequivocally in 1983 -- required much more effort than before.

[Balo] What kind of effort do you have in mind?

[Horn] Activity, contacts, talks, initiatives -- both joint and individual ones, national ones, as well as in the framework of the Warsaw Pact on various international forums and elsewhere, because, after all, the international activity of a country is very multi-faceted and complex. What I mean by this is that these efforts for safeguarding the achievements already gained do not mean some kind of passive behavior, but on the contrary a very serious activity adjusted to the present situation.

[Balo] Well now, in connection with this, of course in the West voices exist which suggest the MSZMP or Hungary would undertake some kind of mediating role or act as a mediator between East and West in this situation. Do you share this view?

[Horn] In my opinion this thesis is incorrect both in theory and practice. How can a mediator, or as it is defined in the West, the role of a mediator, be filled by a country which is a member of an alliance system? Our international actions and activities -- and this refers to 1984 as well -- concern the activity of small countries that can stabilize the detente process. This is a very significant factor. The other factor is that we think -- and it is really this that determines our foreign policy behavior and activities -- that in numerous areas we can pave the way in East-West relations, contacts and everything else, and from this point of view we, too, have a well defined role regardless of the population or size of the country.

[Balo] If we can now come a little bit closer to our economic plans which (?take effect) during -- let's say -- a modest, halting and slow but nevertheless a definite start in a capitalist (?economic) upswing. In what way can Hungarian foreign policy support this (?planning), or in what way does Hungarian foreign policy plan this support?

[Horn] In two fundamental areas. In 1984, for example, the emphasis in our international activities does not change. Thus the further development and strengthening of cooperation with the other socialist countries remains the first priority. Nor has there been a change in the other aspect in that we endeavor to have normal relations, if possible making steps forward, with all other countries as well. Viewing the present situation, it seems not only that no break will occur in our relations with the West in 1984, but perhaps even certain steps forward (?could occur)

[Balo] In what respect?

[Horn] Well, in that the circle and intensity of political contacts would not decrease but possibly even increase. Naturally these contacts are influenced by the new realities and quite often not in a positive but in a negative way. But let us speak concretely. Several West European heads of government have expressed their wish to comply with the invitation to visit Hungary, an invitation which has stood for many years.

[Balo] In 1984?

[Horn] Yes, in 1984. The coordination of these visits, discussions of mutually convenient dates are currently in progress. But we have already agreed on one thing for example, that the British prime minister will visit Hungary next month -- in February -- and this can contribute to the achievement of the objectives we already talked about.

[Balo] Of course the question is, I think, whether these foreign political and foreign economic endeavors, which represent specific Hungarian interests and Hungarian peculiarities, find support within CEMA, or if they clash with the interests or strivings of other CEMA countries.

[Horn] I think, to begin at the end, that there is no clash at all. Not only because of the will, the political intention or other factors, but also because each socialist country is essentially in the same situation we are in. Well, virtually without exception they are all open countries, in economic policy and other senses. Therefore, it also in their interest, along with us, to develop relations.

[Balo] Since we are talking about national peculiarities, I think that the reform of the economic process, and certain parts of it, can be described as Hungarian peculiarities.

[Horn] All the socialist countries are essentially thinking along the same lines and try to act that way in the field of the reform, modernization of the economic system. And decisively the present endeavors center around two key issues. One is the changing, development, modernization of the system of material interest, in virtually every CEMA member-state. The other one is enterprise independence. Everywhere they are dealing with this: Either they have begun it, or the changes are already underway, along with the creation of the necessary conditions. Because, naturally this requires certain financial and other conditions.

[Balo] [Words indistinct] The two fundamental issues?

[Horn] Not at all. In every socialist country changes are taking place which we would regard, describe, as a reform process.

[Balo] This leads to the point that in a tense, or tensing, international situation, the temptation grows for us to turn inwards, to reduce relations, to sever relations, to look at ourselves and try to solve whatever we can here at home and to produce it ourselves. There have been such endeavors in Hungary, and in other socialist countries, too, in recent years.

[Horn] I do not believe that any such endeavors have been evident. At one time, in the fifties, it is true that we were in such a shut-in situation, decisively and above all as as a result of constraints. Because, for the reasons mentioned just now, every socialist country is striving, if at all possible, to develop its foreign econonic relations. This is their concrete, direct interest. And on the other hand, this also has a very serious political significance. We can not maintain political contacts, dialogue, we can not develop all those efforts -- let us say in the interest of avoiding a world war -- in such a way that at the same time we close out other options. This can not be done. And I think that, if we take any socialist country as an example, its practical activity up to now does not demonstrate this at all. Starting with the Soviet Union, every European socialist country very actively pursues the building of contacts.

[Balo] So, in your opinion, if we disregard for the moment the worsening, or worse, political and military-political situation, the CEMA countries, or the Soviet Union, or the socialist countries in general, do not wish to reduce their scientific, economic and cultural relations with the Western countries?

[Horn] Not at all. They do not want that at all, just as they do not want to hold back the political contacts, either.

[Balo] Now, in 5 days, a conference will start in Stockholm, which, following Madrid, is planned to last several years, dealing with measures aimed at increasing confidence in Europe. One asks what is the sense of this in the current international situation.

[Horn] Now, without exaggeration, one must ascribe a very serious significance to this.

[Balo] Why?

[Horn] Because at the moment it is the only such multi-dimensional forum for 35 countries -- and what is more, the only one that can be called effective. That is the one thing. This in itself is a very valuable thing, that it is taking place. The other thing is that if we are to alter the atmosphere -- I dare to say the animosity -- which has come to dominate the international relations today, first and foremost that requires the restoration of confidence, above all among countries with different social systems. We proceed from the fact that a military situation has evolved, which we do not regard as unalterable -- but we must deal with the fact that to modify it will require quite a long time. Now, we have to find treaties, agreements that represent guarantees for the security of every country concerned. What do I mean? Two things, in concrete terms: One is that last January we socialist countries proposed that the Warsaw Pact and NATO conclude an agreement in the interest of renouncing the use of force.

[Balo] Relating to all kinds of weapons?

[Horn] Renouncing the use of conventional and nuclear weapons. Now, this could be a one-way proposal, a wish, and all that -- since there have not been too many positive reactions on the Western side, right up to the latest period when the FRG and many other West European countries noted that it was worth dealing with this proposal. Moreover, the FRG Administration even has a concrete concept relating to this. And this would be very significant because it would be the first such agreement concluded between the two military alliances. And connected with this is another agreement, among the many proposals: that we should conclude an agreement for the elimination [kikueszoeboeles] of an unexpected nuclear war. I believe that these are not merely wishes, but now in the altered situation, when there is shared concern over the tensions that have evolved, there is a much more realistic prospect for such an agreement being concluded than before.

[Balo] Now, on the basis of all this, or if you like, when all is said and done, if in the middle of January 1984 one had to diagnose detente -- is it dying, is it sick, is it convalescing, is it limping, or perhaps has it passed away? What would you say?

[Horn] I do not think it is in the throes of death, it is not dying. Many blows have fallen on this detente process, but it has not vanished. And I believe that these injuries are not incurable, all the more because there is really no other way out today, either in Europe or in the world. And it is not just us who profess and believe this, but in my opinion, over there in the West, too, many people believe and profess this view. And that is why I have confidence in the fact and future of detente.

ACZEL, KOROM, HAVASI PRESENT TOWN CHARTERS

LD112122 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpts] This morning at a festive town council meeting in Szerencs, Gyorgy Aczel, member of the party's Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, presented the new town's charter to Laszlo Koever, chairman of the town council. He warmly greeted the citizens of our new town. He said, among other things:

[Begin Aczel recording] It is not a privilege to be a city-dweller, and living in a village does not mean a low position. Here the opportunities to develop are greater; living conditions can be improved. But Szerencs has a responsibility to help other settlements in the process of rational and well-balanced urbanization. Szerencs can be proud of becoming a town. The creativity of the local community, the developing environment and the hope that the opportunity will be used well have to be mentioned. Szerencs will not become a large city, but a humanistic small town where life is pleasant, and the town is loved by the people living in the neighboring villages. [end recording]

This morning, in Tamasi, Mihaly Korom, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, presented the charter of the new town to Ferenc Grill, chairman of the town council. In his speech, Korom said among other things:

[Begin Korom recording] It is important to mention, especially here in Tamasi, that Hungarians and several nationalities work together harmoniously in our country. Our policy and domestic reality proves well that only a socialist society is capable of achieving a just solution to the nationality question. It is a natural requirement of our society that every citizen, apart from nationality, has equal rights and obligations. Our nationalities policy, however, is not limited only to the creation of legal equality. We add to this material, moral and political extras that help create real equality. It is known that by the initiative of the Central Committee, from 1 January significant changes were introduced in the organization of councils. Counties were dissolved and a town-district system of guidance was introduced. What is the essence, the main political content of this change? This question may be answered briefly: We want to create better conditions for the independence of town and village councils, to increase the responsibility of settlements in their own development. [end recording]

Dorog's inauguration was held at 2:00 p.m. Ferenc Havasi, member of the Politburo and secretary of the Central Committee, attended the festive council meeting. He greeted the citizens of the new town in his speech:

[Begin Havasi recording] This town was established by workers, by communists. Now, as I present the town charter given by the Presidential Council, I ask you to view this town as a place that deserves its honor, because of its past and present. I hope its future will be equally honorable. [end recording]

BRIEFS

AIRLINE JOINS INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION -- The Hungarian Air Transport Enterprise, MALEV, has joined the International Air Transport Association [IATA], becoming its 125th member. Thus, MALEV may participate from now on in IATA regulations meetings and will have voting rights in the network's pricing policy. IATA membership enables better trade and income opportunities on foreign markets and serves a broadening of professional information. [Summary] [Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 4 Jan 84 p 5 AU]

JOURNALISM PROTOCOL WITH BULGARIA -- A cooperation protocol for 1984 between the National Hungarian Journalists Association and the Bulgarian Journalists Association was signed in Sofia on 27 December. It stipulates, among other things, joint participation at international meetings, exchange of experience between the international journalist schools operating in Budapest and Sofia, and broadening direct contact between the editorial offices of similar kinds of newspapers and magazines. [Text] [Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 28 Dec 83 p 8 AU]

AMBASSADOR TO ANGOLA -- Luanda, January 5 (MTI) -- Dr Andras Gulyas, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of Hungary accredited to the People's Republic of Angola, has presented his credentials to President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos. [Text] [Budapest MTI in English 1731 GMT 5 Jan 84 LD]

PROTOCOL WITH USSR JOURNALISTS -- Moscow, January 5 (MTI) -- Karoly Megyeri, general secretary of the Hungarian Journalists' Union, and Ivan Zubkov, general secretary of the Soviet Journalists' Union, signed a protocol on cooperation in Moscow, Thursday. [Excerpt] [Budapest MTI in English 1717 GMT 5 Jan 84 LD]

ROLE OF PRC IN U.S.-PRC RELATIONS VIEWED

AU121216 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 9 Jan 84 p 7

[Lech Kantoch commentary: "A Controversial Visit"]

[Text] Many questions surround PRC Premier Zhao Ziyang's visit to Washington, which begins today. The basic questions may be: What role does this visit play in the entire structure of American-Chinese relations and what role will the Reagan administration give the Chinese in its global contest?

As we know, the normalization of these relations has traveled a long road. The relations have broadened in almost all spheres, especially since the establishment of diplomatic relations in 1979. Even so, the present administration, trying to achieve world supremacy, is not giving up treating the PRC as a partner capable of being manipulated in order to achieve global or regional goals.

Of course, the changing international and internal American conditions are influencing the U.S. Government's policy toward the PRC. This policy has developed from euphoria, via crises and tensions -- which have been so frequent in recent years -- into something that is quite generally described in the United States today as a "new realism." This new realism is meant to be based on an accurate examination of the heart of the relations, on the consideration of U.S. possibilities of exerting influence on the Chinese partner, and on a firm acceptance of the fact that the extent of American influence depends on the PRC itself.

An important feature of the relations is the rapidly developing trade, whose value doubled during 1978-1981, exceeding $5 billion per year. Yet the trade balance is unfavorable for the Chinese. Many trade agreements have been made, covering not only the purchase of complete installations, the development of the extracting industries, or agricultural products, which occupy an important place in American exports. The cooperation between the two countries also covers nuclear energy and the purchase of modern American technology, including so-called dual-purchase equipment capable of also being used by the Armed Forces.

The Chinese stress that China -- in accordance with the line adopted at the 12th CPC Congress -- is steering its policy in favor of its national interests and that it intends to lead an independent policy not connected with any great power or group of powers.

Zhao Ziyang has stressed at a press conference that the stances of China and of the United States are identical on certain important matters. On other matters, however, China criticizes U.S. policy. This applies to problems of the Middle East and Korea, among others. Nevertheless, Taiwan remains the basic thorny problem in bilateral relations.

Despite all this, the PRC's policy toward the USSR must cause reservations in the light of the upcoming visit. It is not only practice up to now that is causing reservations, but the way in which relations with the USSR were presented at the recent press conference, especially when one remembers the tense international situation -- through the fault of the United States -- and the tense American-Soviet relations caused by the exceptionally aggressive line of the Ronald Reagan administration.

JABLONSKI'S NEW YEAR ADDRESS TO FOREIGN ENVOYS

LD121224 Warsaw PAP in English 1100 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Warsaw 11 Jan -- At a traditional New Year's meeting with the diplomatic corps here today President of the Council of State Henryk Jablonski, cordially greeting the diplomats, said, among other things:

In January 1982, I presented you with a broad argumentation substantiating the necessity for introducing martial law, in accordance with our Constitution. In particular, I drew your attention to the fact that we had been thus acting not only in the interest of our own nation, but also of the entire Europe, in the interest of peace, a common value of all the nations of the world.

It was obvious for us, responsible for the destinies of our country, that a state torn apart by contradictions which made normal work in key branches of economy impossible, a state of advancing anarchy and destruction, facing a civil war nearing at a quick pace -- would inevitably had to threaten with incalculable consequences, and not for us alone, if this dangerous evolution of events had not been checked.

One year later, in January 1983, when martial law was already suspended, I could state with satisfaction that Poland became again a country of order and consolidating internal calm, and subsequently -- a reliable partner in international relations. At the time I also voiced my conviction that further progress in normalisation would allow us to lift martial law in the not too distant future.

This prognosis was fully materialized. The past year saw further favourable changes allowing martial law to be lifted already last July. A steady improvement has been noted in all fields of political and economic life. It is still too insignificant as compared to our desires but it has already become a continuous process and nothing indicates that it might be halted.

The programme of understanding and socialist renewal, worked out jointly by the Polish United Workers' Party and other allied parties -- in whose materialization the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON) is playing a vital role -- increasingly continues to become a joint programme of all Poles.

We still have quite a lot of difficulties, and they will certainly persist for a longer time in the sphere of economy, but nobody can have no more doubts that we recover from the crisis also in this field. It is confirmed by growing production and labour productivity. This has not occurred by chance. Positive influence of the broadly designed reform's mechanisms is becoming ever more evident, enterprises grow more independent, the role and significance of the workers' self-governments increases, the new, renascent, self-governed and independent trade unions keep consolidating.

A significant element of economic development of every country is cooperation and trade with other countries. It is always of vast significance, the more so when a country gets out of the crisis with its own tremendous effort.

Both at the most difficult moments and now when the situation is improving, we have permanently met the helpful hand of our socialist allies, and the USSR in the first place. We also record some positive trends in the development of economic cooperation with a number of states with different political systems.

We regret to state, however, that attempts to interfere in our internal affairs are still taken against our country and the policy of restrictions and discrimination is continued. It is not our fault, then, that relations with those states which pursue such a policy cannot prosperously develop.

While guarding the interests of our state and nation we have never acted either in defiance of international law, accepted commitments and agreements or contrary to generally accepted rules of inter-state relations. [sentence as received]

In this respect Poland was and will remain an open country which does not create barriers and limitations and is ready for cooperation with everyone, but a partnerly cooperation, based on equal rights and mutually advantageous one. [sentence as received]

You witness transformations taking place in Poland and -- if you take an unbiased look at them -- you appreciate their range and significance. Therefore, I think the time has come for everybody to draw appropriate conclusions from it.

This encouragement to develop relations with Poland implies that I am trying to look into the future with some optimism, though the general situation in the world evolves, especially in the recent period, in an undesirable direction.

In spite of the fact that last year brought some undoubtedly positive developments like, for instance, a fruitful ending of the Madrid meeting and the decision to convene a conference in Stockholm which we are facing now, the general atmosphere of international relations was primarily affected by adverse phenomena.

Tensions dangerously intensified in the Middle East, Central America and other parts of the world. Attempts emerged to undermine the rightness of the peaceful political and territorial order on our continent shaped according to the provisions of inseparable agreements from Yalta and Potsdam. Aspirations were revived again to take up international politics from the position of force, which must always carry the seed of armed confrontation. And finally, the deployment of new nuclear medium-range missiles in some West European countries started toward the end of last year created a new situation in respect [passage indistinct].

JARUZELSKI ATTENDS SESSION ON PUBLIC ORDER

LD122004 Warsaw Television Service in Polish 1830 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Council of Ministers committee for matters of law observance, public order, and social discipline today discussed their most urgent tasks. The meeting was attended by Chairman of the Council of Ministers Army General Wojciech Jaruzelski.

The chairman of the committee, General Czeslaw Kiszczak, reported on the state of security in the country, public order, and social discipline. Next, he presented the tasks of the committee, the scope of its activity, and the organizational structure.

By decision of the premier, Zenon Komender, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers; Wlodzimierz Berutowicz, first chairman of the Supreme Court; Lech Domeradzki, minister of Justice; and Franciszek Rusek, prosecutor general of the PPR, were appointed as deputy chairmen of the committee. Major General Lucjan Czubinski, deputy minister for internal affairs, was appointed the permanently officiating deputy chairman of the committee.

The committee coordinates the activity of the central commission for combating speculation, which is headed by Deputy Premier Zenon Komender; the commission for matters of consolidation of the citizens' security, public harmony and order, with its chairman, Jozef Bejm, commander in chief of the Citizens Militia; the commission for matters of combating waste, mismanagement, and improvement of the protection of public property, with its chairman, Jozef Zyto, deputy general prosecutor; the commission for matters of improvement of penal proceedings, with its chairman, Lech Domeradzki, justice minister; the commission for matters of countering phenomena of social pathology, and for the formation of the legal awareness of citizens, with its chairman, (Bruno Holys), director of the institute for research into problems of criminality.

Summing up the discussion, Premier Wojciech Jaruzelski pointed to those tasks of the committee which arise from the current socioeconomic situation of the country. He stated that the party and state leadership has joined in a decisive battle against phenomena that delay the country's emergence from the crisis, especially the stealing and wasting of national property, speculation, tax swindles, bad quality production, bribery, the exploitation of official posts in order to achieve personal advantages.

The effects of these phenomena disorganize economic life, as well as being burdensome for citizens. They require decisive and effective actions by all organs of the state.

General Wojciech Jaruzelski stressed the need to amalgamate these efforts with the actions by the social, youth, and trade union organizations. A particular role can be played by the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth (PRON), by involving, as broadly as possible, the community in the struggle against all manifestations of evil.

General Jaruzelski stressed that the legal norms that stand guard over the interests of the citizens and the socialist state ought to be consistent and carried out firmly.

STATE COUNCIL DISCUSSES TRADE UNION DEVELOPMENT

LD121859 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] The Council of State has acquainted itself with the report on the development of trade unions. It has been ascertained that the legal foundations, that have been provided, were properly utilized in the revival of the trade union movement. Those present expressed recognition for the growing activity of trade union organizations in regard to various undertakings related to the improvement of the workforces' working and living conditions and the increasing sense of joint responsibility for the results of work done by enterprises. The State Council has adopted a program of activities for the current year.

JARUZELSKI, PARTY LEADERS ATTEND LIAISON MEETING

LD122344 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 2200 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] At the headquarters of the Supreme Committee of the ZSL, a session has taken place of the central commission for liaison between the PZPR, the ZSL, and the SD.

The session was attended by: for the PZPR, Wojciech Jaruzelski, Jozef Czyrek, Tadeusz Porebski, Wlodzimierz Mokrzyszczak, and Marian Orzechowski; for the ZSL, Roman Malinowski, Jozef Kukulka, Jerzy Szymanek, Jerzy Grzybczak, and Roman Mackowski; for the SD, Edward Kowalczyk, Jan Fajecki, Jarek Wieczorek, Alfred Beszterda, and Adam Kras.

The chairman of the Council of State, Henryk Jablonski, and the Sejm Marshal, Stanislaw Gucwa, took part in the session.

An assessment was carried out of the hitherto achievements of the discussion, and proposals were submitted during the social consultation on assumptions of the draft electoral regulations to the People's Councils.

JARUZELSKI CHAIRS KOK SESSION 12 JANUARY

LD121813 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Today a session of the National Defense Committee [KOK] took place under the chairmanship of Army General Wojciech Jaruzelski. A review and assessment of the international situation -- especially of the threats provoked by the aggressive policy of the NATO bloc states -- were carried out. Also, the results of the accountability campaign of the military operational groups conducted in December last year were discussed in the light of defense requirements. The appropriate conclusions were adopted on the issues examined.

RESULTS OF PRICE CONSULTATIONS SUMMARIZED

AU121511 Warsaw SLOWO POWSZECHNE in Polish 9 Jan 84 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Summary of Consultations on Food Prices"]

[Text] Almost exactly 2 months ago the Office for Prices submitted draft food price hikes for public consultation, which gave individuals the opportunity to air their views and the trade unions, other social organizations, and scientific communities to take a stand.

The press opinion poll on prices produced over 53,000 contributions, which we discussed a few days ago. At the same time the Office for Prices received about 8,000 letters from private persons. Many other people aired their views over the telephone, press, radio, television, and through the consultation teams active in voivodship offices or present at the enterprise meetings. The Council of Ministers Committee for Trade Union Affairs held a meeting on 22 December 1983, at which representatives of 56 national trade union organizations submitted a number of observations and postulates in connection with the proposed food price hikes. In addition, 12 trade union federations stated their positions in writing, 118 trade unions in plants sent in their views, and 108 collective opinions were received from social organizations, scientific institutes, housing community committees, and so on.

The consultations have produced extensive materials, many observations, including very critical ones, postulates, and proposals that go beyond the subject of food price hikes and of the principles of compensation.

I. Views of Participants in Consultations

-- Trade union representatives take the view that it is necessary to examine the planned price hikes against the wider background of the economic problems. It is necessary to combat the sources of the crisis and inflation and not merely to remove their manifestations by increasing prices. The mechanisms of the economic reform are not effective enough in preventing various defects in enterprises. The result of this are erroneous economic decisions and wastefulness.

Showing understanding for the purpose of the proposed price increases, trade unionists asked for reducing the scale of these increases and for increasing compensation so that the interests of the economically weakest groups of the population, which are unable to meet the growing costs of living, are taken into consideration. The implementation of the the third stage of upgrading the retiree pensions is one of the most urgent matters.

Trade unionists also asked for increases in prices for luxury goods, which are bought by people with high incomes, or, alternatively, for taxing all incomes, including retiree incomes, by Z300, instead of increasing food prices.

Raising prices for all food basics at the same time and raising them too excessively should be avoided. It would be better to raise prices more often to a less extent.

Trade unions believe that some workforces are convinced that public consultations are a fake and that no one will take them into consideration.

-- As for other organizations and institutions, the views of the Polish Union of Retirees and Disabled People are in part the same as those of trade unionists. In particular, that union wants food prices, especially those for bread and milk, scaled down and stresses the need for strictly ensuring that products are of the necessary quality.

The union also wants compensation for higher prices to be calculated for every family member and for the people in particularly difficult situations. Moreover, compensation should not be linked to the upgrading of retiree pensions.

The Federation of Consumers stresses that the material presented for consultations incorrectly omitted the regulated and contracted prices that will result from the proposed food price hikes.

The federation takes the view that the proposed price hikes are no guarantee that the flow of good will be rectified because none of the alternative draft price hikes provides for eliminating subsidies and rationing, which may mean that it will be necessary to again raise prices in a year or two or even earlier than that. The implementation of the draft proposals submitted by the Office for Prices would cause a drop in the living standards of most families, especially of retirees. The proposed compensations for price hikes are also questionable because the fact that they will be granted to only some groups of the population can antagonize the community.

The Consultative Economic Council draws attention to the one-sided nature of price hikes and asks for curbing the range of food price hikes (prices for milk, vegetable fats, sugar, and the cheapest meat cuts should be left as they are) and for some scaling down of the remaining prices (especially bakery products) so that the overall cost of hikes amounts to about Z90 billion. At the same time, the council asks for lowering the proposed compensations to between 10 and 15 percent and for compensating budget incomes by raising the present retail prices for some more luxuruious durables.

The National Council of the Patriotic Movement for National Rebirth [PRON] is afraid that in view of the poor nourishment taken by some people the raising of food prices will not curb food consumption. It will curb expenditures on other goods, which are also necessities. The PRON also noted the lack of links between price policy and income policy. It asked for speeding up the third stage of upgrading retiree pensions.

Other social organizations and institutions tackled the same or similar problems and doubts.

-- As for citizens' direct opinions, the results of the poll did not produce a clear choice of any of the proposed alternatives for price hikes.

Almost as many people (mostly workers) accepted alternative one as alternative two (which was a favorite with retirees). Some 72.6 percent of the people polled asked for future price hikes to be more frequent and small. Some 66 percent of them agreed that seasonal prices for milk and dairy products were a good thing and that more compensation should be paid to retirees than to families receiving allowances.

II. The Stand of the Office for Prices

The Office for Prices has analyzed in detail all the aforementioned proposals, views, and postulates that will be used by the authorities to modify proposals on price hikes, to make food price hike decisions, and to develop a long-term economic policy. The consultations have laid bare the divergencies in views and interests of various social groups. The Office for Prices takes the following stand on key or especially disputed problems:

-- The view extensively promoted during consultations that prices and their increases should be examined against a broader economic background is correct. It is therefore right that efforts should be boosted primarily in order to increase productivity, make wages dependent on the amount and quality of work, eliminate waste, lower production costs, and so on. An analysis of government documents clearly indicates that such efforts are being made. However, it is obvious that they can do no more than create conditions for better economic management, because success depends primarily on management, workforces, self-management bodies, and trade unions in enterprises.

-- During the consultations the charge was made that the proposals indicated only the results of hikes of the official prices on basic foods, but that they did not state how other goods and services would be affected by these results. This charge is correct, but the analyses carried out by the Office for Prices have not confirmed these fears because the end evaluation is that the increase in expenditures caused by the possible hikes in the prices on goods and services as a result of food price hikes should not exceed Z20-Z30 per capita a month.

-- Frequent demands were made during consultations that the overall wage and price policy for 1984 should be presented. The basic lines of this policy have been presented in the 1984 Central Annual Plan and in the proposals for price hikes published by this office. These documents envisage that average prices in the socialized economy will increase 17 percent and the cost of living 15-16 percent in 1984.

Larger wage increases are possible only if enterprises overfulfill their plans for consumer goods production, increase productivity, and lower production costs. This means that the situation of enterprises and workforces will be determined primarily by their output. Maintaining overall price increases at the level of 15-16 percent will also depend on strictly fulfilling those conditions.

-- Many people stressed the need to improve production quality and doubted whether price hikes would help improve it. It is obvious that hikes may do so if they balance supply and demand and if they change the producer's market into a seller's market [as published].

-- People's views on food subsidies vary greatly. On the one hand, people asked for the smallest price hikes (involving large food subsidies) and, on the other hand, they asked for dropping subsidies, which would involve large price hikes. The proposed hikes in retail prices are a compromise.

-- Proposals were made to raise luxury goods prices or to lower all wages, pensions, and other incomes by Z300 a month instead of raising food prices. The Office for Prices thinks that the population would not agree to a general income reduction. Many people agree that luxury goods should cost more, but it is a practical impossibility to draw up a list of such goods of economic significance.

Besides, the basic purpose of food price hikes is quite different. The Office for Prices stresses that the 1983 increases in farm production costs and in farm produce procurement prices have upset the already poor proportions between food retail prices, procurement prices, and farm production costs. For this reason we should not replace food price hikes with the measures proposed by some participants in the opinion poll.

-- Some of these participants are also afraid that many enterprises will be unable to honor the 1984 wage increases provided for the central annual plan. However, this reasoning ignores the method of increasing the wage fund -- lowering prime costs mainly by reducing consumption of materials and by employing fewer workers, who should be paid more. If the evaluation of the extent of wastefulness presented during the consultations is true, then eliminating it is capable of tapping enormous resources with which to increase wages.

Very soon the Office for Prices will submit the draft decision of food price hikes and on compensations for these hikes for consideration by the Council of Ministers. The draft will be published.

TRADE MINISTER ON MARKET, INFLATION, PRICES

AU120933 Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish 4 Jan 84 pp 1-2

[Interview with Zygmunt Lakomiec, minister of domestic trade and services, by PAP correspondent Janusz Kotarski: "Nearer to an Equilibrium" -- date and place not given]

[Excerpts] In summing up the progress made in the economy during the past year, we often find it is insufficiently reflected in the market. What are the reasons for this and can we count on there being a closer connection between economic results and the market this year? This was the first question that our PAP correspondent asked Zygmunt Lakomiec, minister of domestic trade and services.

[Lakomiec] The market does indeed, in the opinion of the public, still do too little to confirm the thesis that we are gradually emerging from the crisis. This is partly due to the fact that the past year only brought a 4 percent increase in the supply of goods to the market calculated in last year's prices. This could not have led to either a total or even a partial equilibrium.

However, the start we made this year, from the point of view of equilibrium, is considerably better. Above all else, the pressure eased on the so-called hot money market. Today, the people's savings that are deposited in the General Savings Bank, or in their proverbial "stockings," constitute barely 7 percent of their total current incomes. On the other hand, supplies to the shops have increased. These are responsible for 27 percent of the people's spending, while last year they comprised just 18 percent. So we are, in this way, closer to reaching a decent level of at least relative market equilibrium.

[Kotarski] However, it should be admitted that this is mainly achieved by raising prices, while at the same time, the growth of production is in general double that of the growth of market production. It is, therefore, difficult to accept the fact that our economy favors the market....

[Lakomiec] Structural changes are, of course, necessary in our whole economy in order for it to assume a more favorable nature regarding the market. However, this is a long-term process that demands quite large investment outlays, as well as the introduction of economic mechanisms, and this is promoted by our current reform amendments. However, I personally think that this 8 percent growth in industrial production will also shift to the market since a considerable part of this is also based on a coproduction that allows for better supplies to industries producing finished goods. This fact also indicates a better starting point for 1984.

On the other hand, improving the market by increasing management effectiveness and obtaining a greater supply of market goods continues to be a problem, because only this can create a market equilibrium without using price maneuvers. The government did much to prevent price anarchy [samowola]. The basic issue appears to be freezing supply prices for the whole of 1984. Traders should take advantage of this by signing agreements with producers. The point is, above all, to analyze the way in which prices are calculated. At the moment it is more difficult for producers to slip through higher prices for the goods they sell on the pretext of an increase in production costs that they are currently not responsible for.

We also want this year to be one in which the quality of market goods will improve. I therefore urge you not only to take a more critical look at the goods you buy while you are buying and then using them (the new system of consumer protection favors this by implementing customer claims and guarantees), but also to show concern for the quality of the work you do yourselves.

SECRETARIES ADDRESS ACCOUNTABILITY CONFERENCES

AU121630 [Editorial Report] Warsaw TRYBUNA LUDU in Polish on 9 January on page 4 carries three reports presenting the speeches of Kazimierz Barcikowski, Politburo member and PZPR Central Committee secretary; Zbigniew Michalek, PZPR Central Committee secretary; and Waldemar Swirgon, PZPR Central Committee secretary, delivered at the Siedlce, Nowy Sacz, and Koszalin Voivodship PZPR accountability-electoral conferences respectively on 7 January.

All three PZPR Central Committee secretaries sum up the party's work during the past year, mention problems with the political opposition since martial law was declared, and appeal for the support and implementation of the economic reform as a hope for the future. However, the speeches made by Barcikowski and Michalek also deal at length with the agriculture of the regions they are in, and the promotion of agricultural self-sufficiency, as well as good honest work.

The 500-word report on the speech made by Barcikowski differs from the others by mentioning that after praising the party, Barcikowski also criticizes some of its members saying, "there are cases when people do not do their best." He also says that, "the most difficult battle for Polish socialism and security ended with our victory," while the party's "greatest victory was avoiding a domestic conflict." His assessment of the accountability campaign is that it testifies to "the revival of the party and its growing power and ability to lead the nation." On Polish agriculture, the production of which must be increased, he says, since "the level of food supplies depends, above all, on our national agriculture, as the import of food from other countries belongs to the past."

Michalek's speech, reported in 300 words, is mainly concerned with agriculture, which the report says was not discussed at the conference, and with the implementation of the economic reform. "The reform's task is to make agricultural production profitable," he says, and that, "Poles can feed themselves, but on the condition that plant production exceeds meat production." He advocates "decisionmaking and risk-taking," as well as "the promotion of the cult of good work" and an adherence to deadlines. Michalek also says that the agricultural production of the Nowy Sacz area, which has the worst soil and climatic conditions in the country, was better than the country's average results because of the farmers' "understanding and application of the economic strategies mapped out at the Ninth PZPR Congress."

The 300-word report on the speech made by Swirgon at Koszalin mainly deals with the achievements of the recent voivodship conferences and the way they review the implementation of the resolutions of the Ninth PZPR Congress, as well as the economic reform, the goals of which must be conveyed by the party to the working people. However, "this necessitates a change in the party's work methods." Party members should "test their ability to act among nonparty people," as well as in trade unions, he says. He also recommends that "young people take over the tradition of activity and involvement that their predecessors passed down to them 40 years ago."

JASKIERNIA ON YOUTH MOVEMENT'S DIFFICULTIES

AU121129 Warsaw SZTANDAR MLODYCH in Polish 9 Jan 84 pp 1-2

[Interview given by Jerzy Jaskiernia, chairman of the Union of Socialist Polish Youth, to Pawel Lewandowski: "Responding to the General -- We Are Searching for Attractive Forms"; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Lewandowski] The television interview granted by General Wojciech Jaruzelski has greatly impressed the young people. At present, a tremendous majority of young people are not in youth organizations. Why is this so?

[Jaskiernia] This is a multifaceted problem. It is difficult to name the principal reason. The truth is that the majority of young people are outside youth organizations. The Polish situation is like the situation in the West, where young people do not massively join political organizations. The youth movement structure in other socialist countries is different from the Polish structure. In the socialist countries the index of organized young people exceeds 50 percent as a rule.

I think we should first answer the question of what it means to belong to a political organization and whether every young man and woman should belong to one. Personally, I think that this should not be so. Philatelic and all other associations that are not poltical in character can be mass organizations. I think this is natural.

As for the Union of the Socialist Polish Youth [ZSMP], it is ideological-political in character. Membership in our union is related to one's choice of or search for a socialist ideological orientation. Our union is not a bag for everyone to be put into.

[Lewandowski] What you are saying sounds as if young people were madly rushing to join the ZSMP and as if almost all young Poles had already joined it or wanted to join it....

[Jaskiernia] At times we ask ourselves what segment of young people could join us. Certainly not all of them. If we take into account the religiousness of the Polish people, their mistrust of many institutions, and the fact that we are living at a time of profound crisis, we no longer wonder why a political organization would not enjoy the necessary popularity.

Since August 1980 we have screened our ranks and eliminated deadwood and dead souls. Counting civilian and military members, the ZSMP now totals almost 2 million young men and women. We know very well the old practices of inflating statistics, but we will not use them. We do not want to create fictions. He who decides to join us should be aware of the consequences of such a decision. Our organization has no use for deadwood.

The basic problem is to make our union attractive to young people without losing its ideological character. How can this be done? Some say that we should go for rock music, for example. Well, we could, but this would be a cheap way out. After all, the slogan that all rock fans sympathize with the ZSMP would defy reality. We are not giving up the patriotic and internationalist training of young people. Attempts to find the best ways to attract young people have continued for 39 years now. New answers have been formulated at the indivdual stages of this search.

There are many young people who would like to join our union in exchange for some material advantages. Fortunately, our union does not give away apartments and purchase coupons to buy attractive goods. We are against such practices because they would create a mechanism of bribery. This is why the young people with consumerist tastes will not join us.

[Lewandowski] How does the union leadership evaluate the present prowess of the ZSMP?

[Jaskiernia] The process of regaining the prowess before 1980-81 is continuing. The foundations of our organization continued to disintegrate after August 1980. We have stemmed the union's disintegration and have begun to reconstruct it. The number of our members increased slightly in 1983. It is an optimistic feature that the ZSMP continues to develop in schools and higher schools. This will help us avoid cadres difficulties, with which we will have to grapple in the immediate future. [sentence as published] The experienced aktivists are departing, but their young successors are still too inexperienced. Because the union did not function in schools and higher schools in the seventies, we are now feeling the pinch of the cadre gap.

Our main task is to stimulate the activeness of the entire union because not all its structures are sufficiently militant. There are good branches in the rural areas and large plants, but there are also weak branches.

[Lewandowski] How do you intend to stimulate the union's militancy?

[Jaskiernia] We want to strengthen the union's ideological-educational function, to which we want to devote three plenums of the main administration in 1984. We will also pay sharp attention to the 40th anniversary of the PPR, to which the coming Decade of ZSMP Branches and the competition in sociopolitical knowledge will be devoted. Our most immediate undertaking is the Third National Conference of Workers Aktivs, which is a very important undertaking, that we hope will answer the question of how to make the union's work more attractive and effective among workers.

JARUZELSKI SENDS CONDOLENCE MESSAGE TO FILIPOV

LD121903 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Chairman of the Council of Ministers Wojciech Jaruzelski has sent a telegram of condolences to Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Bulgarian People's Republic Grisha Filipov in connection with the accident involving the Bulgarian Airlines passenger aircraft.

PUNGAN, GANDHI DISCUSS TRADE, WORLD ISSUES

AU121306 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1255 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Delhi AGERPRES 12/01/1984 -- An exchange of messages of salute between Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was occasioned in Delhi by the call paid on the Indian prime minister by Vasile Pungan, minister of foreign trade and international economic cooperation. During the interview that proceeded in a cordial atmosphere, they evoked with satisfaction the development of the Romanian-Indian relations on multiple planes, consequent to the summit understandings. At the same time, on instruction from the Romanian president, the Romanian minister advanced proposals for the amplification of the bilateral relations, as well as the Romanian head of state's considerations about some current international issues, especially as regarded the curbing of the arms face, disarmament, nuclear above all, the development of the collaboration and solidarity of the development countries, of the non-aligned states, in their joint efforts for the eradication of underdevelopment and the establishment of the new international economic order, the need for the peaceful, negotiated settlement of the disputes between states.

Both parties' determination was expressed to collaborate and deploy every effort for the maintenance and strengthening of peace in the world, for the development of the collaboration among all peoples. The Indian prime minister assessed highly the activity unfolded by President Nicolae Ceausescu for the accomplishment of those vital interests of mankind. The Romanian minister had interviews with the ministers of commerce, steel and mines, of finance, industry and at other ministries and departments, where they analyzed the current stage of bilateral economic cooperation. Measures were established for the amplification of the commercial exchanges between the two countries and for building new economic units of mutual interest.

CEAUSESCU RECEIVES DEPARTING ARGENTINE ENVOY

AU121827 Bucharest AGERPRES in English 1641 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Bucharest AGERPRES 12/1/1984 -- Romania's President Nicolae Ceausescu received at Sinaia, on January 12, the ambassador of the Argentine Republic in Bucharest, Federico Carlos Barttfeld, on a farewell call, on ending his mission in Romania. A talk was conducted on the occasion which passed in a cordial atmosphere.

BRIEFS

INDUSTRIAL RECYCLING PROGRAM -- Bucharest AGERPRES 9/1/1984 -- Romania has approached the question of material resources on a wide front. A comprehensive programme has been drafted for the turning to use of the reusable. Recent statistics show that in 1983 industry put again in the productive circuit over seven million tons of steel, 830 thousand tons of pig iron, 23 thousand tons of copper, 16 thousand tons of bronze, 21 thousand tons of brass, ten thousand tons of zinc, 32 thousand tons of lead, 39 thousand tons of aluminium, 81 thousand tons of refractory bricks, 300 thousand tires, ten thousand tons of plastic materials, over five million cu.m. of timber material, 90 thousand tons of textiles, 190 thousand tons of glass, etc. For 1984, the programme of recovery and capitalization of the reusables establishes greater tasks, so that the share of such materials within the total consumption of resources may increase, reaching 50 percent or even more with some groups. For instance, steel reusables will be recovered 52 percent, pig iron ones -- 71 percent, lead ones -- 86 percent, copper -- 59 percent, zinc -- 73 percent, aluminum -- 43 percent, plastics -- 51 percent, paper and cardboard -- 51 percent. [Excerpts] [Bucharest AGERPRES in English 0950 GMT 9 Jan 84 AU]

NATO MISSILE 'PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE' NOTED

LD121828 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1725 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Brussels, January 12 (TANJUG) -- NATO is going over to a propaganda offensive, announcing its readiness to reciprocally give up any further deployment of Pershing and cruise missiles in Western Europe, i.e. to pull them out all or partly depending on an agreement to this effect with Moscow.

The very idea behind this Western offer becomes clearer when having in mind that it coincides with an announcement claiming that it was irrefutably established through man-made satellites that the Soviet Union deployed a short time ago another battery of nine SS-20 missiles of which each is armed with three (?50)-kilotonne nuclear bombs. The Soviet Union has so far positioned a total of 37B SS-20 missiles with 1,342 nuclear warheads as against a mere 25 missiles of the same type installed in Western Europe by now, NATO adds.

In drawing attention to this disparity, NATO has publicly called in question the reasons for Soviet withdrawal from Geneva, practically accusing the Soviet Union of further arming itself immediately before the opening of the forthcoming European Conference on Security in Stockholm.

As viewed from what was said at NATO headquarters, the West is expecting that Euromissiles be discussed against already next Wednesday when Gromyko and Shultz meet. There are slender hopes, however, for any quicker progress in this field, it was added.

NATO circles underline, anyhow, a great importance of the forthcoming gathering in Stockholm, emphasizing that it could mark a turning-point in East-West relations.

A joint evaluation by the Western allies reads that the Stockholm conference can considerably lessen the risk of a war in Europe, if the Soviet Union would not start again from its own interests in negotiations.

In Stockholm, NATO will insist on a discussion of concrete measures for mutual confidence-building, such as notification of troop movements and military exercises, introduction of easier terms (?over observers) [word indistinct] of the hot line to prevent any casual conflicts and like emergencies.

DPRK PROPOSAL ON REUNIFICATION TALKS SUPPORTED

LD121413 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1341 GMT 12 Jan 84

["Pool" item]

[Text] Belgrade, January 12 (TANJUG) -- Yugoslavia extends active support to the proposals of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the peaceful reunification of the country without outside interference, and for the withdrawal of all foreign troops, said Yugoslav Foreign Secretariat Spokesman Zeljko Jeglic today, Wednesday.

Speaking at a press conference here, Jeglic said that Yugoslavia also endorses the DPR of Korea's latest proposal for tripartite talks among the DPR of Korea, the United States, and South Korea on the peaceful reunification of Korea.

We consider that, besides giving a positive contribution to the country's reunification, tripartite talks would also help to reduce tension around Korea and farther abroad in the region, the spokesman said.

PRESIDENCY DISCUSSES INTERNATIONAL SITUATION

LD122313 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1515 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Jan (TANJUG) -- The SFRY Presidency held an enlarged session today chaired by Mika Spiljak. The session, in whose work the presidents of the presidencies of the republics and provinces and senior federal officials took part discussed the direction of Yugoslavia's international activity in the present complex and difficult international conditions.

It was noted that the development of the general international situation, the crisis in economic relations, tension between the great powers and blocs, and especially the intensified arms race have brought about a situation in which further exacerbation of relations threatens all present achievements of mankind. This unfavorable development also threatens the results attained so far throught the persistent struggle of non-aligned and other countries to bring about democratization of international relations, full political and economic independence, equality and the right to an independent development by all (?countries).

It was stressed that this year once again maximum efforts must be invested to arrest the present unfavorable and dangerous development of events and with the resumption of the dialogue and the negotiations -- not only between the great powers but further afield too -- to open up the prospects of strengthening peace and cooperation in the world. In this connection the Presidency pointed out the resolute demands made everywhere (?in the world) by the peoples, broad masses, statesmen, parties, and movements that demand action to establish peace and cooperation as the conditions required for general progress.

It was stressed at the session that Yugoslavia will actively and resolutely work for the consolidation of peace and security in the world along the line of the continuity of its well established policy.

[Words indistinct] It was stressed that, as before, Yugoslavia will consistently involve itself in all activities of the Nonaligned Movement which as the most powerful protagonist for the struggle for peace, cooperation and progress (?is) an exceptionally important global, independent and nonbloc factor of international relations. [words indistinct] on the foundations of a broad platform of the movement I will try to ensure that its present activity may develop and contribute to the solution of buring problems and focal points of crises.

It was stressed at the session that Yugoslavia will consistently continue the practice of nurturing the good relations established with neighboring and other European countries, the great powers, and especailly the nonaligned and developing countries, convinced that in this way it is making a contributuon to the consolidation of world peace.

In its international activities Yugoslavia will pay particular attention to the development of relations in Europe in which adverse consequences of exacerbation of international situation and of bloc rivalry are being manifested increasingly directly. The first stage of the conference on confidence and security building measures and disarmament in Europe, which will begin in Stockholm soon, should be of exceptional

political importance for that very reason and it was noted that its successful course and outcome could provide a significant boost not only to cooperation among European countries in the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act, but to improving the general international situation as well. Yugoslavia will make its contribution to this objective, together with other nonaligned and neutral countries [words indistinct].

The importance of establishing favorable conditions to strengthen cooperation and security in the Balkans which should become a zone of peace and cooperation without nuclear weapons and free from any use of force or threat to use it, was also pointed out. To achieve this Yugoslavia will operate through joint action and will also support all other initiatives that may contribute to the establishment of such a stance in the Balkans and other areas.

(?In) consultations with the Mediterranean countries it will work (?for the development of) initiatives to change the Mediterranean into a zone of peace and cooperation. The consolidation of the influence of the Mediterranean coastal countries is of special importance for the development of and changes in that area.

The elimination of many focal points of crises on principled foundations will also have a priority place in Yugoslavia's international activities. It will work even more actively to attain lasting, comprehensive and equitable solution of the Middle East crisis and of the Palestinian question on the basis of the well-known stand of our country.

The crisis of international economic relations demands that even greater attention be paid to these questions and especially to the increasingly difficult position of the developing countries. For this reason, efforts and initiatives on the international plane must go on so that this problem can be understood and resolved in keeping with the existing interdependence in the world and with the overlapping problems of finance, trade, and development. The assessment was made that all-round economic and financial cooperation between the nonaligned and other developing countries must be strengthened on the basis of the adopted programs of the Nonaligned Movement countries and of Group-77. Permanent solutions must be found for the problems of the enormous indebtedness of the developing countries which will enable these countries to develop -- which is in everyone's interest.

The influence developments in the world have on the international position of Yugoslavia were discussed at the session. It was noted that these developments make the tasks in our country and its role in the international community more complex and difficult. In this connection the importance was stressed of the consistent implementation of the long-term program of economic stablilization as a basis of the further successful development of the system of socialist self-management consolidation of independence and thereby also of our position in the world.

During this session the Presidency discussed and approved the platform for the participation of the Yugoslav delegation in the Stockholm security and disarmament conference.

The report was discussed and approved regarding the official visit which Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, will soon pay to the United States.

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE REVIEWS FOREIGN POLICY

LD122031 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1325 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 12 Jan (TANJUG) -- The Foreign Policy Committee of the SFRY Assembly today resumed discussion of some topical aspects of Yugoslavia's foreign policy. Dr Anton Vratusa chaired the meeting.

The well-known principles that guide Yugoslavia's cooperation with everyone, and especially with the neighboring countries, were reaffirmed during the debate. Committee members expressed their firm conviction that the principles of equality, mutual respect, noninterference in internal affairs, respect for territorial integrity and inviolability, and openness of borders provide the most diverse opportunities for broadest possible cooperation with everyone, and especially with neighboring countries. The committee advocated active policy in the development of interstate political, economic, cultural, scientific, and other forms of cooperation. In this context special significance was attached to interneighbor communications, in which respect national minorities can play a very positive role. Committee members stressed that this approach, which stems from Yugoslavia's nonaligned international orientation, represents a significant contribution to the realization of the Helsinki ideas in the Balkans, Europe, and other areas.

The committee will continue its work because it is expected that at its session tomorrow a speech will be delivered by Lazar Mojsov, federal secretary of foreign affairs. His address is expected to be devoted to an assessment of the international situation and to Yugoslavia's foreign policy in connection with present world developments.

During the afternoon proceedings, the SFRY Assembly's Foreign Policy Committee heard a report submitted by Dr Aziz Hadzihasanovic, vice chairman of the Executive Committee of the Sarajevo Winter Olympic Games.

The Foreign Policy Committee also discussed and approved the report by an SFRY Assembly delegation concerning its visit to Poland which took place in mid-November last year. In evaluating the talks between the parliamentarians of the two countries as open and useful, committee members endorsed proposals for the promotion of broader cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

SUNDIC ON ATHENS NUCLEAR-FREE BALKANS MEETING

LD122319 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1800 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Milika Sundic commentary]

[Text] Just 1 day before the start of the Stockholm conference on disarmament and confidence-building measures in Europe, experts of the Balkan countries will meet in Athens on 16 January to study proposals to turn the Balkans into a nuclear-free zone, and the reports to their governments on this. Albania will be the only country not represented at the Athens meeting, which is no surprise to anyone, given Tirana's policy.

The coincidence in timing of the Stockholm conference and the meeting of experts from Balkan countries in Athens is fortunate, for similar matters will be discussed at both gatherings, even though at differing levels, concerning arms limitation and nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. True, were it to happen -- as Europe justifiably fears -- that the Stockholm conference begins and ends in bloc rivalry, this would have a very negative effect on efforts directed toward turning the Balkans into a nuclear-free zone.

The success of the meeting of experts in Athens also depends to a great degree on the existing state of relations between the Balkan countries and their readiness to peacefully resolve disputed problems.

Such problems exist, and one cannot run away from them. But if all the Balkan countries without exception are willing to develop and promote their relations on the principles of equality, mutual trust, and noninterference in internal affairs, the situation in the Balkans will be both peaceful and stable.

As far as Yugoslavia is concerned, it will continue as it has done hitherto to do everything possible to prevent the existing dangerous exacerbation of the situation in Europe from spreading to the Balkans.

The absence of a representative of Albania at the Stockholm conference and the Athens meeting of experts is a bad sign, at least in regard to Tirana's future behavior, particularly toward Yugoslavia. The Albanian leadership is continuing to conduct an anti-Yugoslav policy and is evidently unwilling to alter its conduct toward Yugoslavia in any respect, at least not on the so-called ideological level behind which territorial claims against our country are hidden.

Another problem relates to Bulgaria's conduct toward the Macedonian national minority and the whole Macedonian nation. This, it is true, is not a new problem, nor is Bulgaria the only Balkan country which does not recognize the existence of the Macedonian nation.

Le us return to the subject at hand. The Athens meeting is especially significant because it is taking place just at the time when rumors are circulating in Europe and the world to the effect that nothing will come of denuclearization in the Balkans. For following the installation of American Pershings and cruise missiles in Western Europe, the Warsaw Treaty countries started installing operative and tactical missiles in Czechoslovakia and the GDR.

There are some indications that similar missiles will be installed in Bulgaria, too, as a response to the deployment of cruise missiles in Sicily.

The indications have not been refuted, except that it is known that the Warsaw Treaty defense ministers also reviewed this issue at the December meeting in Sofia.

It is also known -- though the situation has considerably changed recently -- that Bulgaria has until now championed the idea of creating a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans. Up to the present moment, Bulgaria has not abandoned this standpoint, at least not publicly.

Judging by all events, the fate of the creation of a nuclear-free zone in the Balkans will depend on the further development of relations between the two blocs, particularly between the United States and the USSR. If nothing is changed in this respect, or if relations between the blocs deteriorate even further, Bulgaria will, if need be, certainly incline toward what the Warsaw Pact considers to be necessary. In any event, both the Stockholm conference and the Athens meetings should give an answer to that question.

SERBIAN LC CC MEMBERS RELIEVED OF DUTIES

LD121917 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1615 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Jan (TANJUG) -- Three members of the Serbian LC Central Committee have submitted requests to the committee: Miloslav Zdravkovic, from Leskovac, has requested that he be freed of his function as member of the Central Committee; Jovan Lazarevic, from Lazarevac, has requested that he be relieved of his duties as member of the Central Committee; and Jozef Setalo has resigned as member of the Serbian LC Central Committee.

The Backa Topola Municipal Committee of the Vojvodina LC sent a letter to the Serbian LC Central Committee proposing that Jozef Setalo, member of the Serbian LC Central Committee, should be recalled from this function and expelled from the LCY.

At today's session, the Serbian LC Central Committee, at the proposal of its Presidium, adopted decisions on relieving them from their duties as members of the Serbian LC Central Committee.

Miroslav Zdravkovic was relieved of his duties because he bears political responsibility for the negative political state of affairs and disrupted self-management relations in the municipality of Leskovac. He was thus relieved of his duties as president of the municipal assembly.

Jovan Lazarevic has been relieved of his duties because he bears political responsibility for the negative phenomena in the work of the Kolubara soccer club, manifested in the way in which funds for paying soccer players were formulated and distributed in contradiction of the social norms in force. Lazarevic was formerly president of the Kolubara soccer club and is now a member of the presidency.

Jozef Setalo, doctor and manager of a work community, was relieved of his duties because he bears political responsibility for the negative state of affairs and disrupted self-management relations and other negative phenomena in the Dr Hadzi Janos clinic in Backa Topola, as well as for numerous shortcomings in the basic organization of the LC of this organization, which, due to its incapacity for action, has been disbanded by decision of the Backa Topola Municipal Committee.

The adoption of a decision relieving these three members of the Central Committee of their duties thereby creates the statutory basis for the municipal committees and basic organizations to which they belong to evaluate and establish their specific ideopolitical accountability.

PROCEDURE FOR PRESIDENCY ELECTIONS TO START SOON

LD111637 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1443 GMT 11 Jan 84

[Excerpt] Belgrade, 11 Jan (TANJUG) -- Agreement was reached at today's session of the SAPWY Federal Conference Presidium, which was chaired by Stojan Dejanovic, on the preparations for starting the procedure for the candidature and election of members of the SFRY Presidency. In keeping with the provisions of the SFRY Constitution, the role of the SAWPY Federal Conference, and the social accord on the implementation of the cadre policy, it was agreed that these activities must be started immediately.

As reported, the Presidium also discussed the implementation of the actions in connection with the realization of economic policy and SAWPY tasks in the implementation of the policy of socioeconomic development in 1984 on the basis of the conclusions established at the SAWPY Federal Conference session in December last year.

Candidacies Declared Open

LD121808 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1650 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, Jan 12 (TANJUG) -- The Presidency of the Socialist Alliance of Yugoslavia, the largest socio-political organization in the country, today, Thursday, decided for the procedure of the nomination of candidates for the new collective state leadership, the presidency of Yugoslavia, to open immediately.

As envisaged under the Constitution, the Assembly of Yugoslavia is to proclaim the members of the new state Presidency by May 15 and they are to be elected by the republican and provincial assemblies by April 15.

The presidency of Yugoslavia was introduced as a new organ of the Yugoslav Federation in 1971. It initially comprised twenty-two members but was reduced to nine members in May 1974. The presidency is made up of one member from each of the six Yugoslav republics and two provinces and the president of the LCY as ex-officio member.

The Presidency of Yugoslavia members are elected for a five-year term and cannot be elected for more than two consecutive terms of office. Of the present state Presidency members, Lazar Kolisevski, Cvijetin Mijatovic, Petar Stambolic, Vidoje Zarkovic and Fadilj Hodza are serving the second term. This means that the republics of Macedonia, Bosnia-Hercegovina, Serbia and Montenegro and the province of Kosovo must elect new members for the Presidency's coming term.

The Presidency of Yugoslavia president and vice-president are elected from among the presidency members for a term of one year and according to a set order of the republics and provinces.

According to the set order, the presidency of Yugoslavia president for the coming term is to be the member from the Republic of Montenegro and the vice-president, the member from the Province of Vojvodina. The LCY president, who is elected to the party post for a one-year term and serves during this term as ex-officio member of the State Presidency, is the only member of the state Presidency who does not rotate in the post of president. The Presidency of Yugoslavia is the collective head of state empowered not only to represent Yugoslavia at home and abroad but also to propose to the Assembly of Yugoslavia domestic and foreign policy guidelines and the passage of laws and their enactments. The State Presidency is also the supreme body in charge of the administration and command of the Armed Forces of Yugoslavia in time of war and peace.

TWO KOSOVARS COMMIT SUICIDE TO AVOID ARREST

AU121917 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1840 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Two members of a hostile illegal irredentist organization -- Nuri Berisa, from the village of Svirce, and Redzep Malaj, from the village of Ogoste in Kosovska Kamenica Commune -- have committed suicide after an unsuccessful attempt to run away and being unable to avoid capture by the Kosovo security organs, the examining judge of the District Court of Pristina has announced.

According to the announcement, after establishing where the two were hiding, the Security Service took measures yesterday afternoon to capture Nuri Berisa, a former law student, who had been a fugitive since December 1982, and Redzep Malaj, a former political convict, also a fugitive since October last year. Criminal proceedings were under way against the two for criminal acts of association for the purpose of hostile activities, because they belonged to an illegal irredentist organization that has carried out a number of hostile acts, and has brought propaganda material, explosives, and arms from abroad to our country.

BULGARIAN PARTY, GOVERNMENT SHUFFLE REVIEWED

AU130812 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 9 Jan 84 p 3

[Milan Bekic commentary: "Surprise From Bulgaria"]

[Excerpts] Last Thursday, our neighbors, the Bulgarians, were surprised by a scant report of their new agency, BTA, on major changes in the highest party and state leaderships.

It is not clear to either the Bulgarian public or the public further afield why these important changes have taken place, because the official announcement only states that they were proposed by Todor Zhivkov himself, head of the party and state, because of "certain urgent issues." His proposal was first adopted by the Politburo and the Central Committee and then by the State Council.

The public has not been told what these urgent issues are or how Zhivkov explained them, and it is therefore only possible to conjecture about this -- both in Bulgaria and abroad. Two essential circumstances are considered the most probable reasons for these changes.

The first is of a domestic economic nature and, according to the Bulgarian news agency, Todor Zhivkov mentioned it in his explanation without providing any details. It was said that what is involved are "urgent issues related to changes in the economic approach and the problems of leadership." It is impossible to reliably conclude on the basis of this statement whether the changes have been made because the replaced leaders were too slow in implementing the reform which Bulgaria proclaimed in the first days of last year after the 29-30 November 1982 BCP Central Committee Plenum. According to RABOTNICHESKO DELO of 3 December of the same year, the promoter and proposer of that reform was also Todor Zhivkov.

The reform was supposed to be similar to the Hungarian reform which Leonid Brezhnev cited as a good example at the 26th CPSU Congress.

Did the Bulgarians move too slowly or perhaps (what is less probable) too quickly in this respect? The plan envisages a production growth of 4.6 to 5.4 percent in the 1981-85 period, but it seems that this has not been achieved even though production had been increasing at much higher rates in the past years. At a time when an intensified campaign to strengthen "discipline" and ensure mandatory fulfillment of plans is in progress in the Soviet Union (and, as Zhivkov once said, "Bulgaria breathes with the same lungs as the USSR"), this is most probably the reason that those who failed in implementing or opposed the reform had to leave the leadership. It is not at all strange that Tsola Dragoycheva, who joined the Politburo in 1940, has now left it. But there are also some much younger individuals who have left.

This fact has caused deliberations about some possible other reasons for the "great airing" of leadership in the present international situation. After everything that has happened and is happening in Europe, Bulgaria is increasingly more often mentioned (in addition to Czechoslovakia and the GDR) as the country where new Soviet missiles will be deployed in response to the Pershing missiles, even though Sofia formally advocates the Balkans as a "zone of peace without nuclear weapons."

The interesting communique on the visit of Petur Mladenov, Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs, to Czechoslovakia a month and a half ago, among other things, also shows that not everything is clear in this connection. The Bulgarian version of the communique on the talks between Mladenov and Chnoupek says that the Czechoslovak minister supported the idea of "proclaiming the Balkans a non-nuclear zone" whereas the Prague version does not include this statement. The world news agencies immediately called attention to this difference as something unique in the practice of the "countries of the socialist community."

Conjectures about the meaning of this difference certainly followed. Does it imply Sofia's wish not to accept either the SS-20 or any other missiles (and it is rumored that they are already being deployed in Bulgaria because of the missiles in Sicily), or an insistence by Prague that Czechoslovakia and the GDR should not alone be exposed to a first nuclear strike from the West and that others should also take the risk? No explanation has been provided and it is still unclear how the differences in the communique occurred.

For this reason speculations and conjectures continue: Have the latest cadre changes in Bulgaria taken place only because of slow economic changes or also because of possible advocates or opponents of the deployment of new missiles? If what is involved are the economy and internal motives, then this is certainly a matter for the Bulgarians themselves. But if what is involved are missiles, then this is a matter of interest also for their neighbors and all European peoples.

Still, it is necessary to wait and see and only then pass judgment.

SERBIAN LC DISCUSSES PARTY MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

LD122018 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1130 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 12 Jan (TANJUG) -- A worker sees the LC as his own party to the extent that it persistently and successfully fights for and contributes to the resolution of his self-managing and socioeconomic position. Workers are sensitive and exceptionally critical when there is divergence from established policies or discrepancy between words and actions, and particularly when there is hesitation in the LC over action in relation to self-managing development and the realization of the decisive role of the working class in distribution.

This warning was contained in the introductory speech by Vukasin Loncar, member of the Serbian LC Central Committee Presidium, at today's session of the committee on current problems of strengthening the class-social state of the LC. The Serbian LC is becoming a million-strong organization. In the middle of last year, it had over 938,000 member, Loncar stated. In its present composition, 1/3 of the membership -- 300,000 -- is made up of workers but this proportion has remained at the same level for years, despite clear orientations. There are few agricultural workers and their number is continuing to decline. There is also an unsatisfactory number of creative workers from other areas. One-fourth of the membership is made up of young people, but here, too, there are few young workers and farmers.

Loncar noted the phenomenon of a slower growth in membership resulting from reduced admission and increased resignations from the LC for a variety of reasons, particularly among miners and agricultural workers. A majority of workers is not being recruited in certain developed centers of industrial workers either, and in only three of these environments -- Kragujevac, Gornji Milanovac and Bor -- has there been a more significant increase in the representation of workers in the LC.

In a broad reference to the content and results of LC actions, on which its "attractiveness" to a large extent depends, Loncar warned that the participation of agricultural workers in the Serbian LC has fallen from 8 to 5.4 percent in the past decade, and that this is certainly one of the reasons for the delay in the realization of the LC orientations with regard to the development of agriculture and villages. The LC must also more rapidly find the answers to burning questions of the position and involvement of young people. Their attitude and interest in joining the LC largely depends on this.

Workers and working people, as well as the majority of the involved intelligentsia, criticize the LC for not acting more decisively against the various unacceptable ideological tendencies and forms of behavior. Hence the struggle for ideological unity and moral purity is a most important task which we must not defer. If the LC is capable and consistent in involving all progressive creative forces in the struggle for self-management, Loncar concludes, then it will strengthen the real position of the working class in society, its confidence in the LC, and its readiness to join its ranks.

Several participants in the debate underlined that the problem lies not in there being few workers in the Serbian LC, but that there are many of those "others who are materially and politically unproductive." A large number of people from nonproductive structures -- where membership of the LC is often secretly or even openly made a prerequisite for holding some job -- entered the LC from careerist or similar motives. The most important issue is thus not how many workers there are in the LC, but what position they hold in forming party standpoints and policy. The need for greater influence of the working class in its own vanguard means not only that the number of workers who are members should be increased, but that the LC should vigorously rid itself of all those who strayed into the party or joined it in order to achieve some personal interests.

Interesting data were put forward in regard to the trends in membership of the Kosovo LC, which have been taking a positive course since 1982. Since then, the percentage of workers has increased by 1.5 to 2 percent, but there are municipalities such as Vitina where even less than 10 percent of members are workers. The least favorable trends are in agricultural workers' membership, which has fallen in the last decade from 19.7 to 13 percent, and in the province there are as many as 232 villages without any party organization.

COST OF LIVING INCREASED 60.1 PERCENT IN 1983

LD121113 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0948 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, 12 Jan (TANJUG) -- The cost of living increased by 60.1 percent over the past year. According to the Federal Institute of Statistics, this is the amount by which expenditures rose from December 1982 to December 1983.

The cost of living in December 1983 increased by 7.5 percent in relation to November, the biggest leap in the cost of living ever in that month. (?Part) of the price increases resulted from the decisions of the Federal Executive Council adopted immediately prior to the general price freeze.

A breakdown of the cost of living in December shows the highest expenditure increases in hygiene and health -- 16.6 percent -- and in tobacco and liquor -- 13.6 percent. Expenditure on transportation and postal and telegraph costs rose by 8.9 percent, food by 7.4 percent, culture and entertainment by 7.2 percent, accomodation by 6.8 percent, and clothing and footwear by 3.2 percent.

A breakdown of the cost of living increases for the whole of 1983 shows the following: hygiene and health 77.4 percent, transportation and post and telegraph 68.3 percent, food 63.2 percent, tobacco and liquor 58.2 percent, accomodation 53.9 percent, clothing and footwear 51.7 percent, and culture and entertainment 45.2 percent.

BANKING NETWORK IN WEST EUROPE TRIMMED

LD121223 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1133 GMT 12 Jan 84

[Text] Belgrade, January 12 (TANJUG) -- The Yugoslavia Government has decided that the performance of the branches of Yugoslav banks in Paris, Zurich, Milan, Vienna, Amsterdam and Stockholm does not justify their further existence.

In a drive to rationalise the Yugoslav banking network abroad the government has resolved either to discontinue these offices or to set up collective branches in these cities.

At the same time, the government decided not to change the country's banking network in New York, London and Frankfurt because these centers are of great importance for Yugoslavia's foreign trade.

The rationalisation of the banking network abroad, started last year as part of an economy drive within the framework of the country's economic stabilization programme, has already produced results. Both the number of personnel and maintenance costs have been considerably reduced.

The branches in Eastern European countries have been discontinued and the government is reviewing the justifiability of the commercial offices in industrialized Western European and overseas countries.

TV SHOWS LEADERS AT PRESIDENCY SESSION 21 DEC

AU121116 [Editorial Report] Belgrade Television Service in Serbo-Croatian at 1830 GMT on 21 December carries a 12-second film clip on the session of the SFRY Presidency in Belgrade on the same day, which was chaired by Mika Spiljak, president of the SFRY Presidency, and which discussed French President Francois Mitterrand's official visit to Yugoslavia and Yugoslav Presidency member Fadil Hodza's visit to Argentina.

The film clip shows that the following attended the session in addition to Mika Spiljak: Dragoslav Markovic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium; Vojo Srzentic, president of the SFRY Assembly; Vidoje Zarkovic and Fadil Hodza, members of the SFRY Presidency; and Muhamed Berberovic, general secretary of the SFRY Presidency, as well as several unidentified men.

TV SHOWS LEADERS AT LCY PRESIDIUM SESSION 27 DEC

AU121124 [Editorial Report] Belgrade Television Service in Serbo-Croatian at 1830 GMT on 27 December carries a 1-minute film clip on the session of the LCY Central Committee Presidium in Belgrade on 27 December chaired by Dragoslav Markovic, president of the LCY Central Committee Presidium, which examined current ideopolitical tasks of the LC. Several panning, group, and single shots show that the following attended the session sitting at the usual circular table in the following order, starting from the gap in the table and going clockwise: several empty chairs, an unidentified man, Miljan Radovic, Dobroslav Culafic, Vojo Srzentic, an unidentified man, Dimce Belovski, Krste Markovski, Trpe Jakovlevski, an unindentified man, Slavko Veselinov, Jovan Dejanovic, Petar Matic, Dobrivoje Vidic, Dusan Ckrebic, Tihomir Vlaskalic, several empty chairs, Dragoslav Markovic, Nikola Stojanovic, three empty chairs, Milka Planinc, Ali Sukrija, an unidentified man, an empty seat, Hamdija Posderac, Franjo Herljevic, Josip Vrhovec, empty chairs, an unidentifiable man, Andrej Marinc, Mitja Ribicic, Milan Kucan, two unidentified men, and several empty chairs. Panning shots do not allow for the seats of Dusan Dragosavac and Dane Cuic, who also attended the session, to be located.

'REASONS' FOR FLORJANCIC DISMISSAL DISCUSSED

AU111130 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 7/8 Jan 84 p 2

[Djoko Kesic commentary]

[Text] Near the end of 1983, various "reliably checked" stories about the "mysterious" replacement of Joze Florjancic, who until recently was federal secretary of finance, circulated for days. Everything was enveloped in a veil of secrecy to some extent, and "big and numerous" departures from the highest offices of the state and the party were rumored, to be accompanied by a "completely certain and definitive split in the Federal Executive Council. The minister in the most important department had to go because he was excessively colored with the colors of his own republic."

AFter a certain period of silence, the Federal Executive Council finally issued a statement, which was indeed rather indefinite and for our circumstances rather unusual: "Milka Planinc, president of the Federal Executive Council, in her capacity as the head of government, has initiated the procedure for the relief of Joze Florjancic, federal secretary for finance, from his post...." (13 December 1983).

Two days later, in an exclusive statement to BORBA, Joze Florjancic stated in his home town of Maribor: "I submitted my resignation in the Federal Executive Council 3 weeks ago. I would not wish to say anything in connection with the various stories circulating. After all, it is not up to me now to say anything...." (15 December 1983)

"Comrade Florjancic took this decision for personal reasons, and not because of any conceptual political differences," Franc Setnic, president of the Republican Conference of the SAWP of Slovenia, stated in Ljubljana on 20 December 1983.

Explaining the change in her government in the SFRY Assembly on 26 December, Milka Planinc confirmed what one could guess from the first statement by the Federal Executive Council.

It was not a matter of submitting a resignation, but of dismissal of the federal secretary of finance. However, it was also not a matter of a political excess, but the inflexibility of Joze Florjancic to adjust to team work as is otherwise cultivated in the present Federal Government.

Thus a full stop was put, one may say definitively, to a "case" which in fact never was a case. Therefore, the question arises: What are the real reasons for returning to this subject, since all the "mysterious" matters have been cleared up and the gossipers after all were left gaping with nothing to say?

It seems that there are indeed some reasons for it.

The first reason, among many obvious and possible ones is that this unusual or quite rare occurrence in our practice could be that dividing line which has long been expected and desired and which in the logic of things had to come about. It happens for the first time that a minister of an important department is going, not for any political faults, but because he did not perform his duty as he should, or as was expected of him. In our judgement it is very important that the phrase was avoided which is so common, and hackneyed in our country, that "for health reasons," or "for personal reasons he is leaving this post for a responsible post in his republic." Omitting some details, which were probably unimportant in this case, Milka Planinc stated the truth, and for this reason (and for others) one should give full credit to the president of the Federal Executive Council. The illusion of a "dampened departure" was avoided: According to this illusion, all those who are important remain important, but their work is not subjected to public scrutiny. At this moment this seems to be more important than it appears to be at first sight.

In addition, this example may also be the beginning of the division between the body politic -- be it republican or federal -- and economics and its logic and laws. According to the present practice, politicians of the general kind are able to perform absolutely all the duties and offices, and their political predigree guarantees their inviolability. This certainly does not apply to Joze Florjancic, but to a large number of others who happily accept various important functions.

The New Year message of the SFRY Presidency also leads to these thoughts. It points out among other things: "One should more boldly and rapidly eliminate everything that maintains the bureaucratic consciousness in our sociopolitical system and in daily life and work, everything that slows down the development of socialist self-management and socialist democracy and reduces the possibility of capable people, and especially the young work...."

We want to say that in the departure of Joze Florjancic and in the manner in which he departed one should see a completely new attitude toward all offices, as important as they may be, and all officials and their work. It really would be good if this were to be the new practice which promises that cadres, and especially professional and younger ones, who have proven themselves, should be able to circulate more quickly. Why should a change of people in some posts immediately cause various political suspicions?

It would certainly be good if we draw all the necessary lessons from the latest case.

BRIEFS

NEW AMBASSADOR TO PANAMA -- Belgrade 12 Jan (TANJUG) -- By decree of the SFRY Presidency, Svetislav Vujovic, hitherto head of the Press Department and official press spokesman of the Federal Secretariat for Foreign Affairs, has been appointed as new ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the SFRY to the Republic of Panama. [Text] [Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1309 GMT 12 Jan 84 LD]